

Some Stumbling Blocks
of the
French Language



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SOME
STUMBLING
BLOCKS

OF THE
FRENCH LANGUAGE

AND THE WAY TO AVOID THEM

BY

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Licencié-en-droit

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AGENCIES

BOSTON—The Schoenhof Book Co.
CHICAGO—A. C. McClurg Co.
PHILADELPHIA—H. W. Fisher & Co.
SYRACUSE, N. Y.—Bardeen.
LONDON, England—Hachette & Co.
" " —Kegan, Trench & Co.

CAMBRIDGE, England—Deighton, Bell & Co.
GENEVE, Suisse—Georg.
" " —Kundig.
BOMBAY, India—Johangir, Mirza & Co.
HONG KONG, China—Kelley & Walsh.
NEW YORK—Any large Book Store.

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18/6/18

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BY

GEORGE NESTLER TRICOTHE

INTRODUCTION

THIS little book has been written especially for students who have already mastered the rudiments of French, but who, by lack of practice or otherwise, are still "stumbling" into the numerous pitfalls of that beautiful—and difficult—language.

It does not purport to fill the place of any of the French methods, grammars, or hand-books used at present by students. Its aim is to complete them, to a limited extent, by filling up a gap in the long series of these educational works.

The "remarks" and '**hints**' presented in the following pages are the output of the experience of many years in teaching French. The list of mistakes in pronunciation or construction is unique and very extensive; we are confident that it will materially help the student and facilitate somewhat the task of our fellow teachers.

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STUMBLING BLOCKS IN FRENCH PRONUNCIATION

Difficulty No. 1—the letter s.
“ No. 2—numbers.
“ No. 3—et-est.
“ No. 4—plus
“ No. 5—tous: tout
“ No. 6—the ending “ent.”

SOME PRACTICAL ADVICE ABOUT PRONUNCIATION

- I.—Diphthong **ai, ais**. 87
 II.—Mistakes arising from careless reading.
 III.—Miscellaneous.
 IV.—**Mispronunciation** of some proper names in French.

***SIXTEEN EXERCISES**

KEY TO THE EXERCISES

***Although these exercises do not purport to be interesting—which would be a supernatural accomplishment in a French educational work—they have been at least so made up as to have a meaning.**

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

adj.—adjective.
 f—feminine.
 fig.—figuratively.
 m.—masculine.
 med.—medical.
 milit.—military.
 plu.—plural.
 sing.—singular.
 subst.—substantive

Supplement to 4th Edition. pp. 115 to 119

PART I.

WORDS SIMILAR IN FRENCH AND IN ENGLISH
BUT WITH A DIFFERENT MEANING

FRENCH and English have in common a considerable number of words, but it is a widely spread error to think that the meaning of these words is always the same, or nearly the same, in both languages.

It is commonly supposed, for instance, in America, that DÉPÔT is the correct French word for a large **railway station**—while its meaning is that of “stores of materials,” or “round house” for engines. The traveler from New York or London is not a little surprised, when he is in France, to learn that OFFICE means **pantry**, and CHANDELIER, **candlestick**! He puzzles very much his French friend by tendering him SES APOLOGIES instead of **ses excuses**; and he feels indignant when he is directed to the shop of a dealer in **cast off iron**, after he had asked for the address of a MAGASIN DE BRIC À BRAC. Much to his embarrassment, he is not understood or he is laughed at when he speaks of the PRÉJUDICES of the old nobility, for he should have said **préjugés** and did not mean “damages” in the least. . . . If he goes shopping, he wonders why **ready made clothing** is sold at the sign of CONFECTIONS, and **bacon** under the name of LARD. He cannot imagine why **citron** plays such an important part in French cooking . . . until he chances to learn that this fruit is a plain **lemon**. But his previous experiences will fall into insignificance if, as he is about to retire, he asks for an extra **blanket**, and sees the chambermaid, after much delay, bring him a dish of ‘stewed veal!’

It is against such mistakes that we expect, in the following pages, to warn the student.

SECTION A

WORDS WITH THE SAME SPELLING IN FRENCH AND IN ENGLISH

English word	Remarks	Literal meaning of the word in French	To translate the word into French, USE:	Examples
amiable		amicable	aimable	
audience		judicial hearing, interview granted by a high official		
	in the meaning of an assembly of listeners.	.....	auditoire (m)	
averse (adj.)		shower (subst.)	contraire	
ballot		bale	scrutin (m)	
bat		pack saddle	bâton (m)	
	in the meaning of animal. ....	.....	chauve souris (f)	
bric à brac		junk, old stores	biblot (m)	un magasin de bric à brac is a junk-shop
bride		bridle	mariée	
brigadier		corporal (cavalry)	général de brigade	
brute		brutish, stupid (man)		
	in the meaning of animal. ....	.....	animal (m) bête (f)	
cabinet		1st, closet 2d, private study (of a doctor, etc.)		
	in the meaning of wooden case. ....	.....	casier (m)	
	in the meaning of photograph. ....	.....	format album (m)	
cap		cape (geography)	bonnet (m)	une carte format album

case	in the meaning of jewel case..... in the meaning of glass case..... in the legal meaning.. in the medical mean- ing and general mean- ing.....	1st, hut, cabin 2d, pigeon hole	écrin (m) vitrine (f) cause (f) cas (m) causerie (f)	
chat		cat		
charge	in the meaning of cost in the legal meaning..	load, burden	prix (m) accusation (f) lustre (m)	
chandelier		candlestick		
chiffon		1st, rag 2d, silk muslin	cédrat (m) pièce de monnaie(f)	
citron		lemon		
coin		corner		
complexion		disposition, constitu- tion	teint (m) confiseries (f) confiance (f)	faire ses confidences: to tell one's secrets
confections		ready made clothing		
confidence		secret, secrecy		
déjection		evacuation (med.)	abattement dé couragement(m)	
dépôt	Americanism for sta- tion	deposit, stores of ma- terials	gare, station (f)	

WORDS WITH THE SAME SPELLING IN FRENCH AND IN ENGLISH

English word	Remarks	Literal meaning of the word in French	To translate the word into French, USE:	Examples
diligence		speed, stage coach	soin (m)	
direction		1st, way 2d, management		
	in the meaning of address.		adresse (f)	
	in the meaning of orders, etc.		instructions (f pl)	
distraction		thoughtlessness	insanité (f)	
event		air hole	évènement (m)	
fat		foppish	gras	
fee		fairy	honoraires (m pl) droits (m pl)	
figure		face	taille, stature (f)	
file	speaking of people	line, rank	lime (f)	Notice that the English word lime is chaux
	in the meaning of tool in the meaning of a bundle of papers . .		liasse (f)	
gale		itch, scab	tempête (f)	
gaze		gauze	regard (m)	
here		un pauvre hère , a miserable fellow un triste hère , a con- temptible man	ici	
if		yew tree	si	

ignoble		disgusting	humble roturier	ignoble extraction, humble naissance
labour	in America, labor	tillage	travail, labeur (m)	
lame (adj.)		blade (subst.)	estropié	
lard		bacon	saindoux (m)	
large		wide	gros	
legs	plural of leg	legacy	jambes (pl)	“des jambes arquées, legs de la longue ascendance de pay- sans déjetés par les rudes travaux de la terre. . . .” Paul Junka—Un vicair ^e parisien [crooked legs, legacy from a long ancestry of peasants, distorted by rough work in the fields]
Lent (subst.)		slow (adj.)	Carême (m)	
levee		collection (for letters) levy	lever [du Roi] (m) réception (f)	
lice (subs. pl)		lists [to enter the] (in tournaments, etc.)	poux (m. pl.)	
lie		sediment	imensonge (m)	
lime		file (tool)	chaux (f)	
lorgnette		opera glass	lorgnon (m)	
main	as an adjective. in the meaning of pipe.	hand	principal conduit (m)	
major	in the army	quarter-master	commandant, chef de bataillon, chef d'escadron	

WORDS WITH THE SAME SPELLING IN FRENCH AND IN ENGLISH

English word	Remarks	Literal meaning of the word in French	To translate the word into French, USE:	Examples
manger		the action of eating	mangeoire (f)	
mangle		mangrove	calandre (f)	
mare		pool	jument (f)	
mat (subst.)		dull, unpolished (adj.)	natte (subst. f)	
mince	as a verb..... as a noun.....	thin, meager	émincer émincé (m)	pâté d'émincé: mince pie
mire		sight (in fire arms)	boue, fange (f)	
modiste		milliner	couturière (f)	
noise		quarrel *	bruit (m)	* used only in the idiom: chercher noise à
nomination	of candidates	appointment	présentation (f)	
notions	in the meaning of haberdashery.....	idea, elementary knowledge	passenterie (f)	
office	in the meaning of a place of business.....	1st, functions 2d, pantry	bureau (m) ou	
or		now, well	terrine (f)	
pan		tail of a coat	père et mère	
parents		relatives	cloison (f)	
partition		score (music)		

passable	of a road	tolerably good	praticable	
pathos		bombast	pathétique	
petite	of a woman	short	mignonne	
pin		pine-tree	épingle (f)	
plain		level	simple, clair	
plate		feminine form of plat: flat (adj.)		
	in the meaning of earthenware. . . . .	. . . . .	assiette (f)	
	in the meaning of iron, steel plate . . . .	. . . . .	plaque (f)	
portion	in the meaning of marriage portion	part, ration		
		. . . . .	dot (f)	
prejudice		damage	préjugé (m)	
raisin		grape	raisin sec (m)	
rampant		creeping	effréné	la desertion était éffrénée, de- sertion was rampant
rave (to) v.		turnip, radish (subst.)	divaguer (verb)	
rapt (adj.)	for instance: a rapt glance	abduction (subst.)	ravi (adj.)	
rate		spleen	prix, taux (m)	
regal (adj.)		treat (subst.)	royal (adj.)	Translate however "with kind regards" into "mille amitiés"
regard		look, glance	égard (m)	or "avec mes meilleurs souven- irs"
rein		kidney	rène (f)	
relations	speaking of persons	acquaintances	parents (m. pl.)	

WORDS WITH THE SAME SPELLING IN FRENCH AND IN ENGLISH

English word	Remarks	Literal meaning of the word in French	To translate the word into French, USE:	Examples
relative		feminine form of relatif (referring, comparative to)		
relief	in the meaning of kinsfolk. ....	.....	parent (m)	
report		set-off	soulagement, secours (m)	
		amount brought forward	bruit (m) rapport (m) rumeur (f)	
ride		wrinkle	promenade course (f)	eu voiture, à cheval
rime		rhyme	givre (m)	
romance		ballad, song	roman (m)	
rot		roast (meat)	pourriture (f)	
sale		dirty (adj.)	vente (f)	
sensible		sensitive	sensé	
sentence	in the meaning purely grammatical.	sentence of a court	phrase (f) servante (f) serviteur (m) esclave scène (f) (theater) diligence (f) (coach)	
servant		gunner (artillery)		
slave		Slavonian		
stage		probation		

store		shade (window)	magasin (m)	
talon	of a bird	heel	serre (f)	
tape		slap	cordon (m), ruban (m)	
tenant		[old French] cham- pion	locataire	
transporta- tion		removal of convicts across the sea	tenancier (m)	
trivial		vulgar	transport (m)	
van			léger	
vent		winnowing basket	insignifiant	
		wind	voiture (f)	
	in the meaning of breathing hole. ....	.....	passage (m)	
verge		rod	soupirail (m)	
verger		orchard	bord, point (m)	
			bedeau (m)	

SECTION B

WORDS WITH A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE IN THE SPELLING

English word	Remarks	French word	Meaning of the French word	To translate the word into French, USE:	Examples
adjutant		adjudant	sergeant-major	adjudant-major	
apology	in the meaning of excuse.	apologie	always a writing or a discourse to justify some one	excuse (f)	
artificer		artificier	fireworks maker, artillery: bombardier		
ass		as	ace	artisan (m)	
advertisement		avertissement	warning	âne (m)	
back		bac	ferry-boat	réclame (f)	
bankrupt		banqueroute	fraudulent bankruptcy	dos (m)	
barrack		baraque	shed, hovel	failli	bankruptcy is faillite
beck		bec	beak, bill	caserne (f)	
blanket		blanquette	stewed veal	signe (m)	
cabin		cabine	stateroom	couverture (f)	
chart		charte	charter	cabane (f)	
character	in the meaning of behavior.	caractère	[in some meanings like in English] temper	carte marine (f)	
	in the meaning of testimonial.			conduite (f)	Elle a une mauvaise conduite
				recommandation (f)	She is a bad character

chope	chope	glass of beer	côtelette (f)
clerk	clerc	an attorney's clerk a bailiff's clerk	commis (m)
co-correspondent	correspondant	correspondent	complice (m. f.)
fabric	fabrique	factory	fabrication (f)
	.....	.....	tissu (m)
fastidious	fastidieux	monotonous	difficile (à satis- faire)
gay	gai	cheerful	bon vivant
glass	glace	ice	verre (m)
injury	injure	insult	dommage (m)
jolly	joli	pretty	gai
luxury	luxure	lust	luxue (m)
luxurious	luxurieux	lewd	luxueux
nap	nappe	table cloth	somme (m)
obeisance	obéissance	obedience	révérence (f)
ore	or	gold	minerais (m)
			gold ore: minerai d'or
partner	partenaire	partner at cards	associé (m)
patent	patente	license	brevêt d'invention (m)
propriety	propriété	property	convenience (f)
raffle	râfle	action of sweeping stakes, etc.	loterie (f)
ragout	ragoût	meat stew. <i>Very seldom: relish</i>	fumet (m)
rent	rente	income	loyer (m)

WORDS WITH A SLIGHT DIFFERENCE IN THE SPELLING

English word	Remarks	French word	Meaning of the French word	To translate the word into French, USE:	Examples
resort	in the meaning of recourse.	ressort	spring (mechanics)	station (d'été, etc) recours (m) ressource (f) extase (f) tartelette (f) parapluie (m) girouette (f) comestibles (m. pl)	
trance		transe	apprehension		
tart		tarte	pie		
umbrella		ombrelle	sun umbrella		
vane		vanne	flood gate		
viands		viande	meat		

PART II.

A LIST OF THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES

MADE IN FRENCH BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE

EXPERIENCE has shown that for several reasons the mistakes hereafter enumerated are extremely frequent in conversation.

Every one of our examples has been supplied, not by a **single** pupil, but by a very large number of advanced students, either American or English, who all committed the same error, when coming in contact with that particular "stumbling block."

This list appears for the first time in a French educational work. If carefully and intelligently studied, it will prove of great value to the student who earnestly wishes to attain such proficiency as to be able to **speak** French **correctly**—an accomplishment, the possession of which constitutes the most important advantage to be derived from the study of the language.

PART II.

A LIST OF THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES MADE IN FRENCH BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE

If you mean	Do not say	Say or write	Remarks
I get up early	<i>je me lève à la bonne</i>	<i>de bonne heure</i>	à la bonne heure means: well done; all right
I went to Paris	<i>je suis allé à Paris</i>	<i>je suis allé</i>	aller is a verb of motion
I do } without a carriage go }	<i>je n'ai pas de voiture</i>	<i>je me passe de</i>	
a cup of tea	<i>une tasse de thé</i>	<i>une tasse de thé</i>	tasse à thé means: tea-cup
[if some one sneezes]	<i>que Dieu vous bénisse</i>	<i>que Dieu vous bénisse!</i>	à votre santé! means: to your health!
he is an acquaintance of mine	<i>c'est une de mes connaissances</i>	<i>c'est une de mes connaissances</i>	
an accommodation train	<i>un train mixte</i>	<i>un train mixte</i>	
if agreeable to you	<i>si cela vous est agréable</i>	<i>si cela vous est agréable</i>	
I am agreeable	<i>je suis d'accord</i>	<i>je suis d'accord</i>	je suis agréable means: I am nice, pleasant
it is an affair of the heart	<i>c'est l'affaire du cœur</i>	<i>c'est une affaire de cœur</i>	l'affaire du cœur means: the heart's business
how do you like the play?	<i>comment aimez-vous la pièce</i>	<i>comment trouvez-vous</i>	[a very common mistake]
I like him	<i>je l'aime</i>	<i>je l'aime bien</i> <i>je l'aime beaucoup</i>	je l'aime alone is too emphatic to translate: I like him. Strange as it seems, the adverb bien (or beaucoup) lessens here the quality expressed by the verb
it looks like rain	<i>il a l'air de pluie</i>	<i>on dirait qu'il va pleuvoir</i>	

* The dash is used here to avoid a useless repetition of words

A LIST OF THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES MADE IN FRENCH BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE

If you mean	Do not say	Say or write	Remarks
have you been here long?	avez-vous été ici longtemps?	combien y-a-t-il de temps que vous êtes ici?	
I shall have a hat made...	j'aurai faire un chapeau	je ferai faire —	
he is an old bachelor	c'est un vieux bachelier	c'est un vieux garçon	bachelier means always a B.A., etc.
the balance of your account	la balance de votre acompte	le solde de votre compte	acompte means instalment, etc.
the banks of the river	les bords de la rivière	les bords —	
good morning!	bon matin!	bonjour!	
I spent the summer in the country.	j'ai dépensé l'été dans la campagne.	j'ai passé l'été à la campagne	dans la campagne means: in the fields
he has no brains [figuratively]	il n'a pas de cerveau	il n'a pas de cervelle	dépenser is used for money or strength only
every one in his turn	chacun dans son tour	chacun son tour	cerveau is always taken in its literal meaning
the pastor went up to the pulpit	le pasteur est monté en chaire	— en chaire	chair means: flesh. The sentence would convey the idea that the clergyman has become fatter
I have not the way of getting it	je n'ai pas le chemin de le procurer	je n'ai pas le moyen de me le procurer	chemin means: road.
how often have you been there?	combien souvent avez-vous été là?	combien de fois —	[a gross and a very common mistake]
how far is it?	combien loin est-ce?	a quelle distance est-ce?	ditto

how long did you wait?	combien longtemps avez-vous attendu?	combien de temps —	ditto
how old is your brother?	combien vieux est votre frère?	quel âge a votre frère?	
the same as before	le même comme avant	le même qu' avant	
she is a companion to Mrs. X.	elle est compagnon de Mme. X.	elle est demoiselle (dame) de compagnie de Mme. X.	compagnon means: fellow-worker, fellow-traveler
the peasant's cottage	le cottage du paysan	la chaumière —	cottage means: a country-seat
let it cost what it may in the morning	Idiom: coûte qui coûte dans le matin	coûte que coûte	
the finest in the world	le plus beau dans le monde	le matin, au matin	
I thought of you	j'ai pensé de vous	— du monde	
the prisoner was discharged	le prisonnier a été déchargé	— à vous	as long as a prisoner has not been convicted, he is a prévenu
I am in a hurry	je suis dans une dépêche	le prévenu a été acquitté	déchargé means: unloaded
last Monday	le dernier lundi	je suis pressé	dépêche means: dispatch, telegram
a friend of mine	un ami des miens	lundi dernier	le dernier lundi means: the last Monday of a period
to land	débarquer	un de mes amis	Notice that the days of the week take no capitals
he has shown his devotion to me	il m'a montré sa dévotion	débarquer	
did you speak to him about me	lui avez-vous dit de moi?	— son dévouement —	dévotion is devotedness, piety
		— parlé —	dire means: to say

A LIST OF THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES MADE IN FRENCH BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE

If you mean	Do not say	Say or write	Remarks
the carriage is before the door	la voiture est devant la porte	— devant la porte	avant is not: in front of
this man is distracted by the death of his wife	cet homme est distrait par la mort de sa femme	cet homme est affolé	distract means: inattentive, absent-minded
that gives me pleasure	cela me donne du plaisir	— fait plaisir	
I asked of a passer by	j'ai demandé d'un passant	— à un passant	
the train is due at 6:30	le train est dû à 6:30	— doit arriver à 6:30	
this cook is economical	cette cuisinière est économe	— est économe	économique is said of a money-saving device, not of a person
take my trunks up stairs, down stairs	prenez mes malles en haut, en bas	montez, descendez mes malles	
I heard that	j'ai entendu que . . .	j'ai { entendu dire que . . . appris que . . .	[a most frequent mistake]
I heard from my brother	j'ai entendu de mon frère	j'ai reçu des nouvelles de mon frère	
I heard about the accident	j'ai entendu de l'accident	j'ai entendu parler de l'accident	
she is very enthusiastic	elle est très enthousiastique	— enthousiaste	
I sent for the doctor	j'ai envoyé pour le docteur	j'ai envoyé chercher	
listen to me	écoutez à moi	écoutez moi	
I was eating, sleeping, etc.	j'étais mangeant, dormant etc.	je mangeais, je dormais, etc.	a too common mistake, for which there is no excuse
I was slumbering	j'étais sommeil	je sommeillais	j'avais sommeil means: I was sleepy

I took the horses to the stables	j'ai pris les chevaux à l'étable	j'ai conduit les chevaux à l'écurie	prendre is never used in the meaning of to lead, to conduct, etc. étable is used for cattle, not for horses
go and see him	allez et voyez le	allez le voir	
this girl has some expectations	cette fille a des expectations	cette jeune fille a des espérances	expectation is not French
I expect to go there	j'expecte d'y aller là	je compte aller —	expecter is not French
I had a strange experience	j'ai eu une étrange expérience	— aventure	
he works for a living	il travaille pour une existence	— pour vivre	
he makes a living by . . .	il fait une existence en . . .	il gagne sa vie en . . .	
he made 300,000 francs this year	il a fait 300,000 francs cet an	il a gagné 300,000 francs cette année	
that makes me sick	cela me fait malade	cela me rend malade	
this is not my best accomplishment	ce n'est pas mon forte	ce n'est pas mon fort	forte, an Italian word, is used only as a musical term
he has many bad habits	il a bien des fautes	— défauts	faute is an offense, a mistake
the furnace of this house	le fourneau de cette maison	le calorifère —	fourneau is: kitchen-stove
he bought a set of furniture for the parlor	il a acheté une fourniture pour le salon	il a acheté un mobilier	
this man is a fraud	cet homme est une fraude	cet homme est un imposteur	fraude is never used when speaking of persons. Its usual meaning is smuggling

A LIST OF THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES MADE IN FRENCH BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE

If you mean	Do not say	Say or write	Remarks
the owner of the hotel	le maitre d'hôtel	— de l'hôtel	maitre d'hôtel means but-ler, steward
the fifth of January	le cinquième de Janvier	le cinq janvier	Notice that months do not take a capital
she plays indifferently	elle joue indifféremment	elle joue médiocrement	indifféremment means without attention, thoughtlessly
I am interested in him	je suis intéressé à lui	je m'intéresse à lui	
I am anxious to go there	je suis inquiet d'y aller	— anxieuse d'y aller. Il me tarde d'y aller.	
introduce me to Miss N.	introduisez moi à Mlle. N.	présentez moi à Mlle. N.	
read the items on this bill	lisez les items sur cette note	lisez les articles —	
I wish to join your class	je désire rejoindre votre classe	je désire me joindre à —	
do you play chess?	jouez-vous des échecs	jouez-vous aux —	
do you play on the violin?	jouez-vous sur le violon	jouez vous du —	
I had a pleasant journey	j'ai eu une plaisante journée	j'ai fait un plaisant voyage	journée means a day's work, a whole day
my uncle is justice of the peace	mon oncle est justice de paix	— juge de paix	justice de paix is the court
I shall let you know	je vous laisserai savoir	je vous ferai savoir	
We shall leave town by noon	nous laisserons la ville à midi	nous quitterons —	

the teacher gave us a lecture	le maître nous a sermonné	lecture means: reading
I met Miss N.	j'ai rencontré mademoiselle N.	
The Misses B. were there	les mesdemoiselles B. y étaient	
I remained home	J'ai resté à ma maison	rester requires the auxiliary être
I was at the opera yesterday; the house was full	j'étais à l'Opéra hier; la maison était pleine	
I miss my friend	je manque mon ami	je manque mon ami means: I fail to meet my friend
to walk up and down	marcher en haut et en bas	
she will not marry him	elle ne veut pas le marier	marier is to give away in marriage, to perform the marriage ceremony
this man is a mechanic	cet homme est un mécanicien	mécanique means: a piece of machinery
I saw the doctor	J'ai vu le médecin	médecine means: remedy, drug
I like it better	je l'aime meilleur	mieux is the adverb; meilleur, the adjective
I burned my finger	j'ai brûlé mon doigt	When speaking of parts of the body: 1. reflexive verbs are generally used; 2. the possessive is not used (because the possession is expressed by the reflexive verb itself)
he lost his money	il a perdu sa monnaie	money is change

A LIST OF THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES MADE IN FRENCH BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE

If you mean	Do not say	Say or write	Remarks
the morale of the army was bad	la morale de l'armée était mauvaise	le moral de l'armée était mauvais	la morale is the morality le moral is the spirits
she is a musician	elle est musicale	— musicienne	
he was born at Paris	il était né en Paris	il est né à Paris	to be born is translated into naître, the past of which is je suis né à is used with cities, en with countries
I am reading a new book by X., which brother gave me	je lis un livre neuf par X., que frère m'a donné	— un nouveau livre par X., que mon frère m'a donné	un livre neuf means: a book never used, quite clean, etc. Here un nouveau livre is a newly published book
have you worked much to-day?	avez vous beaucoup ouvré { aujourd'hui ouvrage }	avez vous beaucoup tra- vaillé	these words are not French
it is a little pamphlet on the "Trusts."	c'est un petit pamphlet sur les "Trusts."	— une petite brochure	pamphlet has always the aggressive meaning
the Sunday paper	le papier du dimanche	le journal	
the criminal was pardoned	le criminel a été pardonné	— gracie	
it is noon by my watch	il est midi par ma montre	— à ma montre	
he works by the hour	il travaille par l'heure	— à l'heure	
he sells them by the weight	il les vend par le poids	— au poids	
give me some particulars on the accident	donnez moi des particu- liers sur l'accident	— des détails	un particulier means: an individual

this store has many patrons in the wealthy classes	ce magasin a beaucoup de patrons dans les classes riches	— de clients [or pratiques]	patron is employer (America: "boss")
to pay a call	payer une visite	faire une visite	[a common mistake]
to have a pain in the head	avoir une peine dans la tête	avoir mal à la tête	peine is generally moral suffering
the performance of Hamlet	la performance d'Hamlet	la représentation —	
there were many people at the concert	il y était beaucoup de peuple au concert	il y avait beaucoup de monde —	Here peuple would mean rabble
a grand piano	un grand piano	un piano à queue	grand piano means: a big piano
in the course of my pursuits	au cours de mes pouruites	— travaux	
I am afraid I am sick	j'ai peur que je sois malade	j'ai peur d'être malade	
Marseille is a large place	Marseille est une large place	— une grande ville	
he is more and more impertinent every day	il est plus et plus impertinent chaque jour	— de plus en plus —	1, large is wide. 2, place, in reference to cities, is used only in the expressions: place de commerce, place forte
I went there several times	j'y suis allé plusieurs temps	— fois	
I would rather go myself	j'irais plus tôt moi même	— plutôt —	plus tôt in two words means: earlier
I bought a pineapple	j'ai acheté une pomme de pin	— un ananas	pomme de pin means: fir cone
the captain of the ship was on the bridge	le capitaine du navire était sur le pont	— la passerelle	pont, in nautical terms, means: deck

A LIST OF THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES MADE IN FRENCH BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE

If you mean	Do not say	Say or write	Remarks
take that child to school	portez cet enfant à l'école	menez	porter is to carry in the arms.
send for the carriage	envoyez pour la voiture	envoyez chercher	
I am waiting for an opportunity	j'attends pour une opportunité	j'attends une occasion	
look for your hat	cherchez pour votre chapeau	cherchez votre chapeau	
I suffered for one hour	j'ai souffert pour une heure	j'ai souffert pendant une heure	
Doctor N. has a large practice	docteur N. a une grande pratique	le docteur N. a une grande clientèle	Here, pratique would mean: experience ; les pratiques mean: the customs
I heard a good preacher in this church	j'ai entendu un bon prédicateur à cette église	prédicateur	prêcheur is now obsolete in French
I will take the chances to take a walk	je prendrai les chances prendre une promenade	je courrai les risques faire	
this took place in 1840	cela a pris place en 1840	a eu lieu | or s'est passé |	prendre place means: to take seats
I am ready to go with you	je suis prêt à aller avec vous	je suis prêt à	près means: near
this meeting would not be proper	cette rencontre ne serait pas propre	convenable	propre is: clean
this teacher has many pupils	ce maître a beaucoup de pupilles	d'élèves	pupille is: ward, in the legal sense of the word

as for me, I do not like that	quant à moi, je n'aime pas cela	quant à —	quand is: when
the moment I saw him	au moment que je l'ai vu	au moment où —	
this is a race horse	c'est un cheval de race	— cheval de course	cheval de race means: thoroughbred
my watch is right	ma montre a raison	— va bien	
he was sick, but he recovered	il a été malade, mais il a recouvré	— s'est guéri	
give me back my gloves	redonnez moi mes gants	rendez moi —	
it is a good-looking man	c'est un homme qui regarde bien	c'est un bel homme	regarder bien means: to look attentively
look at me	regardez à moi	regardez moi	
my apartment looks into the park	mon appartement regarde dans le parc	— donne sur —	
I met with an accident	j'ai rencontré un accident	il m'est arrivé un accident	
rest a moment	restez-vous un moment	reposez-vous —	[one of the most frequent mistakes]
let us resume our conversation	résumons notre conversation	reprenons —	résumer is to sum up
You are laughing at me	vous riez à moi	vous vous moquez de moi	
enter the waiting room	entrez la salle d'attente	entrez dans la salle d'attente	
do you know this man?	savez vous cet homme?	connaissez-vous cet homme?	connaître is the proper word for to be acquainted with
I am satisfied that you do not speak the truth	je suis satisfait que vous ne parlez pas le vrai	je suis convaincu que vous ne dites pas la vérité	satisfait means: pleased
by so doing, he saved 30,000 francs a year	de cette façon il a sauvé 30,000 francs un an	de cette façon il a gagné 30,000 francs par an	

A LIST OF THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES MADE IN FRENCH BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE

If you mean	Do not say	Say or write	Remarks
this child does not know how to read	cet enfant ne sait pas comment lire	— ne sait pas lire	
I have so much work that	j'ai si tellement de travail, que	j'ai tant de travail, que	
she has singed her hair	elle a singé ses cheveux	— roussi —	singer is: to ape
he looks sober, for he has just lost at the races	il a l'air sobre, car il a juste perdu aux courses	il a l'air sérieux, car il vient de perdre —	sobre is always: temperate, not drunk
when you go out please mail this letter	quand vous sortez, mettez cette lettre à la poste, s'il vous plaît	quand vous sortirez —	quand requires the future tense, when the action expressed by the verb is merely accidental If it is a customary action, the present is used: quand vous sortez (whenever you go out) vous laissez toujours la porte ouverte
If you go out, shut the front door	si vous sortez, fermez la porte d'entrée	si vous sortez, fermez —	si never requires the future tense, except when it means whether
I let the fire go out	j'ai laissé sortir le feu	— éteindre —	
I took a subscription to the "Figaro."	j'ai pris une souscription au "Figaro."	— un abonnement —	souscription is: share-list, etc.
he cannot succeed in business	il ne peut pas succéder en affaires	— réussir —	succéder means: to succeed to, to come after [a common mistake]
I am cold	je suis froid	j'ai froid	

he will come on Thursday	il viendra sur jeudi	il viendra jeudi	sympathique means: congenial
when I told him of my sorrow, he was very sympathetic	quand je lui ai parlé de mon chagrin, il a été très sympathique	— il m'a montré de la sympathie	
I am late	je suis tard	je suis en retard	tard is used only in such expressions as il est tard, sur le tard , etc.
my watch is late	ma montre est tard	ma montre retarde	
give me a postage stamp	donnez moi un timbre de poste	— timbre poste	
I like to travel in the mountains	j'aime à travailler dans les montagnes	— voyager —	travailler means: to work [a gross and inexcusable mistake]
an excursion train	un train d'excursion	un train de plaisir	
very much	très beaucoup	extrêmement	
I have been mistaken	j'ai été trompé	je me suis trompé	j'ai été trompé means: some one [or something] deceived me
the trouble is that.....	le trouble est que.....	le malheur est que.....	
I had much trouble with that lawsuit	j'ai eu beaucoup de troubles avec ce procès	— de difficultés —	
What is the trouble?	Quel est le trouble?	De quoi s'agit-il?	
Do not trouble yourself	Né vous troublez pas	Né vous gênez pas	Né vous troublez pas means: do not get confused, "mixed up."
This servant is well trained	ce domestique est bien entraîné	— stylé —	entraîné is used in matters of sports
Are you not in a hurry? — Yes, I am	n'êtes vous pas pressé? — Oui je le suis	— Si, je le suis	

A LIST OF THE MOST COMMON MISTAKES MADE IN FRENCH BY ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE

If you mean	Do not say	Say or write	Remarks
he is a private tutor in Mr. X.'s family	il est tuteur dans la famille de Mr. X.	précepteur	tuteur means: guardian
he will come in a few days	il viendra dans un peu de jours	quelques jours	un peu means: a little [a very common mistake]
he uses a silver knife	il use un couteau d'argent	se sert d'un couteau	user is: to wear out
I had a good time	j'ai eu un bon temps	du bon temps	
I saw him a few times	je l'ai vu quelques temps	this expression, although much used, is not grammatically correct; it is therefore better to say or write: je me suis bien amusé	
I sell it three francs a meter	je le vends trois francs un mètre	quelquefois	quelque temps [singular] means: for a while
he is worth a million	il vaut un million	le mètre	
he slammed the door with a vengeance	il claqua la porte avec une vengeance	il est riche d'un million	
I learned three verses by heart	j'ai appris trois vers par cœur	furieusement	
I am coming for you	je viens pour vous	trois strophes	un vers is: a line only
this infant is three weeks old	ce petit enfant est vieux de trois semaines	vous chercher est âgé de	

he is the villain in this play	il est le traître dans cette pièce	visiter is generally used when speaking of the sights of a city, etc.
she is visiting my sister in the country	elle est en visite chez ma sœur —	
come quickly	— vite	
I shall see him to the door	je le reconduirai	je le verrai à la porte would mean: I shall behold him, etc.
We are going to see the sights of the place	— les curiosités —	
after having seen him, I said	après l'avoir vu —	
respectfully yours	je reste, avec respect, votre très dévoué (or votre humble serviteur)	See "Mistakes in Letter-Writing," page 56
will you have this box?	voulez vous cette boîte?	
it is a grand sight	c'est un magnifique spectacle	grand here would mean: large, big

To this list of gross and unpardonable mistakes, we add the following, which may be left out by students who do not wish to make a special study of French rhetoric.

It contains some faulty expressions which are quite excusable in a foreigner, because most of them are commonly used in France, except by the very few who have mastered—and not forgotten—the deepest arcana of the grammar.

Remarks	Do not say or write	Say or write
If you mean an action which will continue, go on and increase	commencer de	commencer à cet enfant commence à marcher
If you mean an action of limited duration	commencer à	commencer de j'ai commencé d'écrire ma lettre
If you mean an action of long duration	continuer de	continuer à il continue à exercer la médecine
If the duration is very limited	continuer à	continuer de il continue d'écrire sa lettre
In the meaning of to dare	défier à boire	défier de boire
In the meaning of to challenge	défier de boire	défier à boire
In the meaning of to escape something	échapper de	échapper à échapper à la prison
In the meaning of to escape from	échapper à	échapper de échapper de prison (from)
If you use to borrow in the sense of to draw from figuratively	emprunter à	emprunter de il a emprunté ce passage de (from)
If you speak of a present occupation which is of little importance	s'occuper de	Longfellow; otherwise use à s'occuper à il s'occupe à lire le journal

If you mean something important and of long duration	s'occuper à	s'occuper de
If you speak of something which cannot be accomplished without a considerable delay	obliger contraindre forcer	obliger contraindre forcer } à Tâchez d'obliger vos sujets à vous aimer
If you mean a well determined action, to be done at once	obliger contraindre forcer	obliger contraindre forcer } de je suis obligé de sortir
If it is on a particular occasion	oublier à	oublier de j'ai oublié de prendre mon parapluie
In the meaning of to have lost the habit of something	oublier de	oublier à j'ai oublié à parler allemand depuis que je suis en Amérique
If you wish to say that a thing is temporarily useless	cela ne vous sert de rien	cela ne vous sert à rien
If it is permanently useless	cela ne vous sert à rien	cela ne vous sert de rien
physical pain	il souffre de parler	il souffre à parler
mental pain	il souffre à vous entendre dire cela	il souffre de vous entendre dire cela

PART III.

FRENCH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND ~

SOME French idioms, which are very commonly used in conversation as well as in literature, are seldom clearly understood, if understood at all, by English-speaking people. On account of their importance in the language, the student should give them all attention

De quoi s'agit-il?

What is the question [the point, the subject]?

Il s'agit de

The thing [the point at issue] is to The question is

Donner dans

To indulge in

[Il donne maintenant dans la théosophie.

He indulges now in studying, etc.
His hobby is now, etc.]

S'en donner

To give one's self up to it. To have one's fill of it.

Etre en train de

To be just [reading, doing, etc.]

En vouloir à

A very common expression, derived from: vouloir du mal à)
To have a grudge against,
to be set against.

[Je vous en veux.

I have a grudge against you.

On ne peut lui en vouloir.
One cannot blame him.]

Faire ses embarras

To fuss.

Se faire à

To get used to

Comment se fait-il que

How is it that

(Il ne s'en faut pas de beaucoup
que [je ne vous donne]

There is little wanting for [my giving to you]—I feel very much like giving, etc.

Gêner.....

[a very useful verb in French]
for dress, etc.: **to be too tight.**

[Cet habit me gêne.

This coat is too tight.]otherwise: **to be in the way.****to inconvenience.**

[Vous me gênez.

You are in my way.

Ne vous gênez pas.

Do not put yourself to inconvenience](Compare to the German: "Gen-
ieren.")

Se jouer de

To overcome lightly.**To mock at.**

Je tiens à cela.

I am very tenacious of it.**I am much attached to it.****I "stick" to it.**

Je n'y tiens pas.

I do not care much for it.**[speaking of things only]**

Qu'à cela ne tienne!

Never mind that!**Do not let that be any objection!**

A quoi cela tient-il?

What's that owing to?

[Tenir is a very idiomatic verb in French. In that respect it ranks immediately after Faire. However it is but little known to foreigners. Compare to the German: "halten".]

Travailler à façon.

To make up people's own material.**Couturière à façon.**

Se mettre [bien, mal.]

To dress [well, badly.]

Se mettre à.....

To set about.....

Venir.....

Notice the difference betweenJe viens écrire, **I come to write.**Je viens d'écrire, **I have just written.**Si je viens à écrire, **If I happen to write.**

Vous ne sauriez être trop prudent.

You could not be too prudent.

Il n'aurait qu'à [nous apercevoir, nous surprendre, etc.].!

He might [spy us out, catch us], or Suppose he.....etc.

Tantôt.

[This adverb is often misused]**Alone it means By and by, this afternoon.****[Je viendrai tantôt.****I shall come this afternoon.]****In repetition: Now.....then.**

Avoir beau [dire, faire.]	To be no use [saying, doing]—to do, to say in vain.
Faire l'effet de	To look like
J'ai acheté pour un franc de pommes.	I bought one franc worth of apples.
Je me soucie peu de	I do not care much for I do not like much to
Qu'est-ce que cela me fait?	What is that to me?
A qui mieux mieux.	Striving with each other. [Ils mangent à qui mieux mieux. They vie with each other in eating.]
Je ferai de mon mieux.	I shall do my best.
A la queue leu leu*	In single file.
Faites en autant!	Do the same!
Si cela ne vous gêne pas trop.	If it is not too much trouble.
Le premier Paris du "Temps."	The Times' editorial.
Au fur et à mesure.†	In proportion as

* leu, old French for loup (wolf), "like wolves, one behind the tail of the other."

† fur, from the latin forum, market, then rate, price. Used only in this idiomatic expression.

This expression	Does not mean	It means
Battre les cartes	to strike the cards	to shuffle the cards
Cinq francs pièce	a five francs piece	five francs a piece
Se faire du mauvais sang	to suffer from blood poisoning	to fret about
Faire face à quelqu'un	to make "faces" to some one	to face some one
Faire foin de	to make hay out of. . . . *	to despise something
Faire queue	to make a tail	{ to stand one behind another } to wait for one's turn
Faire la vie	to make a living	to lead a fast life
Un homme de peine	a man who has troubles	a porter
J'ai envie de	I am envious of	{ I have a mind to } I want
Un remue ménage	a removal (moving house)	a domestic disturbance
Recevoir un pot de vin	to receive a pitcher of wine	to receive a <u>bribe</u>
Un pied à terre	a foot on the ground	{ a little place to stop at } a "little crib"
La pleine mer	the full sea	the open sea
Se tenir bien à table	to hold fast at the table	to behave well at table
Vous tomberez ainsi dans la rue du Marché	thus you will fall Market Street	this will lead you to Market Street
J'ai peine à croire	it hurts my feelings to believe	I can hardly believe
Un chevalier d'industrie	a member of the society of the Knights of Labor	a "light fingered gentleman"
Avoir le mal du pays	to have a local disease	to be home sick
Se trouver mal	to think ill of one self	to faint
Etre dans tous ses états	to be in one's estates	to be quite upset

* foin, here, means "skunk" in the dialect of Berry, in Central France.

ENGLISH EXPRESSIONS

PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TO TRANSLATE INTO FRENCH

THE following expressions, which are of every day use, have puzzled many generations of students, and will continue to do so for years to come. However, we think that the difficulty can be greatly lessened by the reunion in a list of these expressions which required heretofore long, tedious—and sometimes, fruitless—searches in grammars and dictionaries.

TRANSLATE

As soon as I had left town	by Aussitôt après avoir quitté la ville
I do not like you to have . . .	Je n'aime pas que vous ayez . . .
I do not care for this	Je ne tiens pas à ceci
I cannot get him to. . .	Je ne sais pas comment m'y prendre
I miss my friend very much	Je ne peux pas l'amener à. . .
I ought to go. . .	Mon ami me manque beaucoup
I ought to have gone. . .	Je devrais aller. . .
I ought to have had. . .	J'aurais dû aller. . .
I want you to have. . .	J'aurais dû avoir. . .
I wish I could	Je désire que vous ayez. . .
I feel faint. . .	Je voudrais pouvoir
I will attend to it	Il me semble que je vais me trouver mal
I went shopping	Je m'en occuperai
I wonder at. . .	Je suis allé faire des emplettes
I wonder whether. . .	Je m'étonne de. . .
I enjoy reading, hearing, etc.	Je me demande si. . .
I enjoy the trip, the scenery, etc.	J'aime à lire, à entendre, etc.
I enjoy [a city]	Je jouis du voyage, du paysage, etc.
They charged me fifty francs	Je me plais [dans une ville]
	On m'a fait payer cinquante francs

What are your charges for.
By and by

I am to.
I was to.
I was to be a clerk, etc.
Send it C. O. D.
[Do or Did emphatic] I did read this book
To walk back home.
Can you spare him?
I have been long dressing
I have been told that. . . .
I have been here three months
I would not mind doing it
Would you mind.
Can you get me [something]
I may go there
I have been able to.
I might have been able to.
I took the wrong car
I rang at the wrong door
A week ago
A week ago yesterday
Two weeks from to-day
It is of no avail
It looks like rain
It looked like rain

by Combien prenez vous pour.
" { in a very short while, a few minutes: tout à
" l'heure } the same day: tantôt

" Je dois
" Je devais
" Je devais être commis, etc.
" Envoyez le payable à domicile
" Mais je l'ai lu, ce livre [or: mais j'ai lu ce livre;
or: j'ai lu ce livre vraiment]
" retourner à la maison à pied
" pouvez vous vous passer de lui?
" J'ai mis du temps à m'habiller
" On m'a dit que.
" Il y a trois mois que je suis ici
" Je le ferais volontiers
" Voudriez vous bien. (quelque chose)
" Pouvez vous me procurer
" Il se peut que j'y aille
" J'ai pu.
" J'aurais pu.
" Je me suis trompé de voiture
" Je me suis trompé de porte en sonnant
" Il y a huit jours
" Il y a eu hier huit jours
" D'aujourd'hui en quinze
" Cela ne sert à rien
" On dirait qu'il va pleuvoir
" On aurait dit qu'il allait pleuvoir

REMARK

To get. The translation of this verb into French often leads to serious mistakes.

I.—**To get** must NOT be **indiscriminately** translated by **procurer** or **se procurer**. The latter has a meaning of extensive-ness which does not **always** exist in "to get." For instance,

"In what store did you get this hat?"

could not be rendered accurately by:

"Dans quel magasin vous êtes vous procuré ce chapeau?"
which means:

"In what store and by which devices did you succeed in getting this hat?"

All depends, as a rule, upon the meaning attached to the verb **in each particular case**

EXAMPLES

I cannot **get** my key out of the lock.
Je ne peux pas retirer ma clé de la serrure.

I cannot **get** this book, for the shelf is too high for me.
Je ne peux pas prendre ce livre, . . . etc.

II.—**To get** followed by an **adjective** or a **past participle** can generally be rendered by a **REFLECTIVE VERB** in French.

EXAMPLES

to get rich: s'enrichir.
to get drunk: s'enivrer.
to get married: se marier.
to get lost: se perdre.

If no reflexive verb is available use: **devenir**.

Example: devenir bête
 " paresseux
 " grognon } **to get** silly, etc.

Many verbs in **ir** are used to translate **to get** and an adjective: **grossir** (to get bigger), **maigrir** (to get thin), etc.

PART V.

REMARKS

ABOUT THE GENDER OF NOUNS

I.—BEWARE OF the so-called Rules on the gender of French nouns. They are mostly misleading and unpractical.

II.—Above all DO NOT rely upon that ancient twaddle which has spread everywhere—except in France—the idea that **nouns ending in “e” mute are feminine**. Hundreds of such nouns are masculine, including many in very common use. Exceptions to this so-called rule are so many indeed that we never found yet a student or a teacher able to give them all out without referring to his grammar.

The gender of most nouns can only be learned by practice and usage.

III.—Many nouns have A DOUBLE GENDER in French. As their **meaning changes with the gender**, it is advisable for the student to become conversant with the following list, which includes **only** nouns in common use.

Do not say:

un aide [an assistant]	for une aide [aid]
le claque [opera-hat]	“ la claque [slap]
le coche [coach]	“ la coche [notch]
le couple [husband and wife]	“ une couple [two of a kind]
le crêpe [crape]	“ la crêpe [pancake]
le critique [a critic]	“ la critique [criticism]
le finale [finale (music)]	“ la finale [ending (word)]
le foudre [wine vat]	“ la foudre [thunderbolt]
le garde [keeper]	“ la garde [military watch]
le guide [guide]	“ la guide [rein]
le livre [book]	“ la livre [pound]
le manche [handle]	“ la manche [sleeve]
le manœuvre [workman]	“ la manœuvre [maneuver]
le mode [mood]	“ la mode [fashion]
le moule [mould]	“ la moule [mussel]
le mousse [cabin-boy]	“ la mousse [froth]
le pendule [pendulum]	“ la pendule [timepiece]
le pique [spade]	“ la pique [pike]
le poêle [stove]	“ la poêle [frying pan]
le poste [military post]	“ la poste [post-office]
le pupille [ward]	“ la pupille [pupil (of eye)]
le solde [balance of account]	“ la solde [military pay]
le somme [slumber]	“ la somme [sum]
le tour [turn]	“ la tour [tower]
le vase [vase]	“ la vase [slime]
le voile [veil]	“ la voile [sail]

PART VI.

ADJECTIVES WITH A DOUBLE MEANING

SOME adjectives in French have a different meaning, according as they are placed **before** or **after** the noun. This is a fact generally known to students. It is nevertheless the cause of a great many mistakes, for the very simple rule which governs the matter is not exposed clearly in most grammars. Errors will be nearly always avoided by keeping in mind that usually these adjectives, when taken **in their literal sense** FOLLOW, and when **taken figuratively** PRECEDE the substantive.

ADJECTIVES WITH A DOUBLE MEANING

Adjectives	Literal Sense	Meaning	Figurative Sense	Meaning
Beau	une soeur belle	a beautiful sister	une belle soeur	a sister in law
Bon	un homme bon	a kind man	un bonhomme	a simpleton
Brave	un homme brave	a brave man	un brave homme	an honest man
	un garçon brave	a brave boy	un brave garçon	a good fellow
Certain	une perte certaine	a sure loss	une certaine perte	a particular loss
Cher	un livre cher	an expensive book	mon cher livre	my dear old book
Commun	une voix commune	an ordinary voice	d'une commune voix	unanimously
Dernier	l'année dernière	last year	la dernière année	the last year (of a period)
Fameux	un soldat fameux	a celebrated soldier	un fameux soldat	an excellent soldier
Faux	il a l'air faux	he looks deceitful	il a un faux air de	he resembles slightly.
	un jour faux	[painting] mistaken light	faux jour	unfavorable light
Fier	porte fausse	sham door	fausse porte	secret door
	un imbécile fier	a silly and proud man	un fier imbécile	a thoroughly silly fellow
Fort	un négociant très fort	a very stout merchant	un fort négociant	a big dealer
	une place forte	a fortified city	une forte place	an important business center
Franc	un goujat franc	a blackguard who is sincere	un franc goujat	a regular blackguard
Galant	un homme galant	a ladies' man	un galant homme	a gentleman
Gentil	un homme gentil	a nice fellow	un gentilhomme	a nobleman
Grand	un homme grand	a tall man	un grand homme	a great man
Haut	une mer haute	a high sea	la haute mer	in the offing (at sea)
Honnête*	gens honnêtes	polite people	honnêtes gens	honorable people

* Honnête is somewhat an exception to our rule. It is very seldom used with the meaning of "polite."

ADJECTIVES WITH A DOUBLE MEANING

Adjectives	Literal Sense	Meaning	Figurative Sense	Meaning
Maigre	repas maigre	meal without meat	maigre repas	a poor meal
Mauvais	air mauvais	vicious look	mauvais air	vulgar appearance
Méchant	des vers méchants	ill-natured poem	de mauvais vers	a poor poem
Même	la douceur même	sweetness itself	la même douceur	the same sweetness
Mortel	la vie mortelle	the mortal life	deux mortelles journées	two very tedious days
Mûr	une pomme mûre	a ripe apple	mûre délibération	mature resolution
Nouveau	un livre nouveau	a new book	un nouveau livre	{ another book one more book
Pauvre	un musicien pauvre	a penniless musician	un pauvre musicien	a musician without talent
Plaisant	un homme plaisant	a pleasing man	un plaisant animal	a contemptible churl
Profond	un fossé profond	a deep ditch	un profond respect	a deep respect
Propre	une serviette propre	a clean napkin	ma propre serviette	my own napkin
Pur	du vin pur	pure wine	pure vanité	mere vanity
Sage	C'est une femme sage	she is a wise woman	C'est une sage-femme	she is a mid-wife
Seul	une femme seule	an unaccompanied woman	une seule femme	only one woman
Simple	un soldat simple	a simple minded soldier	un simple soldat	a private
Tendre	viande tendre	tender meat	tendre amitié	sweet friendship
Triste	un poète triste	a lachrymose poet	un triste poète	an indifferent poet
Unique	un tableau unique	an incomparable picture	un unique tableau	a single picture
Vrai	histoire vraie	true story	une vraie histoire	a false tale, a yarn without foundation

PART VII.

A FEW PRACTICAL HINTS

ABOUT FRENCH VERBS

I.—Many students render **without distinction** the English past tense by the French **imparfait**. This is a **GROSS MISTAKE**.

The usual meaning of the **imparfait**—**Je donnais**, for instance—is:

I was [giving] or I used [to give]

II.—Translate, as a rule, the English past by the French **passé indéfini**

I ate

J'ai mangé

III.—Do NOT LOAD YOUR MEMORY with such “ornamental” tenses as the **passé antérieur**, the second form of the conditional anterior [**J'eus donné, j'eusse donné**] and even the **plus que parfait du subjonctif** [**que j'eusse donné**].

You will have, indeed, very little use for the latter; as for the two other ones, a foreigner can do without them altogether.

[Compare to the future of the subjunctive in Spanish.]

IV.—When you first study verbs, you MAY OMIT the **prétérit** [or **passé défini**] which nowadays is little used in conversation. It is, in fact, a **narrative tense** which you will anyway learn progressively by reading French. Of course you should, later on, make a special study of it, when you are far advanced enough to tell long stories or write at length on a given topic. To study it too soon would be likely to lead you to a misuse of this tense.

It has been the mistake of many a teacher to ignore this ancient and very truthful French saying: **Qui trop embrasse, mal étreint!**

V.—Do not indulge in the very wrong habit of using **LAISSER** when you translate such expressions as

let us go.

let him eat.

let them enter.

They belong to the French impératif

allons!

qu'il mange!

qu'ils entrent.

VI.—Another very common mistake, for which some old-fashioned grammars are answerable, is to translate without distinction **may** by the **subjonctif présent** and **might** by the **imparfait du subjonctif**.

The rules governing the French subjunctive are entirely different from those regulating the use of "may" and "might." The latter are, in fact, often rendered in French by *pouvoir*

I think that he may not arrive in time.

Je pense qu'il peut ne pas arriver à temps.

But in:

Je tremble que vous n'arriviez pas à temps.

I tremble lest you may not arrive in time.

the subjunctive is used, not because of "may," but because verbs of fear, in French, govern this mood.

VII.—Remember that *être* is NEVER used in French as an auxiliary with the present participle, like in English.

Therefore, do not say

Je suis lisant for I am reading, but Je lis.

J'étais lisant for I was reading, but Je lisais.

This also is a very common error.

VIII.—Do not try to introduce the *imparfait du subjonctif* in your sentences if there is any other construction available. It is an awkward and ill-sounding tense which French speaking people always do their best to avoid. Indeed, some classical writers, Voltaire for instance, preferred to err grammatically than to mar their works with such disagreeable expressions as *mangeassions*, *appartinssiez*, *agenouliassent*, and *persiflassiez*! *

IX.—It must be borne in mind that, as a rule, French VERBS OF MOTION require the auxiliary *ETRE* (and not *avoir*).

Therefore

Do not say

J'ai allé

J'ai sorti

J'ai parti

J'ai monté

J'ai descendu

J'avais tombé

J'avais venu

J'avais revenu

J'aurais devenu

J'aurais entré

Il a né

Il a mort

But say

Je suis allé

Je suis sorti

Je suis parti

Je suis monté

Je suis descendu

J'étais tombé

J'étais venu

J'étais revenu

Je serais devenu

Je serais entré

Il est né

Il est mort

* In many instances the subjunctive [present or imperfect] can be avoided. For instance, to use it in translating sentences like this:

I do not think I shall go home.

Did you believe you were sick?

would be a useless complication.

Say: Je ne pense pas aller à la maison.
Croyiez vous être malade?

Both verbs have the same subject.

A great many students, however advanced they may be in French, make this mistake, the most common in French verbs and the easiest, perhaps, to avoid. This must be partly imputed to the lack of clearness of most grammars on that subject.

Remark.—There are exceptions to the above rule (for instance, *courir*, to run), but they apply to verbs of motion which are not so extensively used as those requiring the auxiliary *être*.

PART VIII.

SUNDRY DIFFICULTIES

I.—Campagne

(a) In time of war, the army is **en campagne**, and not **à la campagne** [in the country for an outing].

(b) In the Summer you live **à la campagne**, and not **dans la campagne** [in the fields].

(c) Do not mistake **compagne** [companion] for **campagne**.

II.—Croire.

(a) **Vous croyez quelqu'un**, but **Vous croyez à une nouvelle** [without preposition: full belief; with **à**: simple adhesion].

(b) **Vous croyez en Dieu** [with **en**: absolute confidence].

III.—Convenir

(a) The price suits your father. **Le prix convient à votre père**.

(b) *But*: you agree to meet in the park. **Vous convenez de vous rencontrer au parc**.

IV.—Fort, bien, beaucoup

It is a mistake to think that these three words can be used indifferently.

(a) **Bien** is without question stronger than **beaucoup**.

Je le désire BEAUCOUP. I wish it **much**.

Je le désire BIEN. I wish it **very much**.

(b) **Fort** is sometimes stronger than **bien**.

Je le désire FORT. I **do** wish it.

(c) Notice the difference between:

fort bien: very good! all right!

bien fort: very strongly.

V.—Penser

It is a common mistake to translate **to think of** into **penser de** in the meaning of to have in one's thoughts. Use: **penser à**.

Penser de means: to have an opinion of.

Pensez à moi: think of me.

Que pensez vous de moi: what do you think of me?

VI.—Pas mal, pas mauvais

These expressions are often misunderstood by foreigners. They do not mean: not so very bad [or badly], but **not at all badly, not at all bad.**

J'en ai pas mal means: I have quite a number of them.

VII.—Puisque, depuis

Few students use these words correctly. Both, it is true, can be translated by **since**, but there are two "since" in English.

Since I saw you, I have been sick.

DEPUIS que je vous ai vu

Since you cannot do otherwise.

PUISQUE vous ne pouvez pas

VIII.—N'est-ce-pas

Remember that this is the only way to translate into French such expressions as:

do you? does he? do you not? did they? and so forth; **are you? were they?** and so forth.

NOTICE however that you cannot use it when **do, does, are, etc.**, have not the same subject as the verb for which they stand.

Example: I wish to go there; do YOU not?

Je désire y aller; ET VOUS?

IX.—Point, pas

Students are often wondering what is the difference between these words.

Bear in mind that **point** is STRONGER than **pas**.

Pierre: Je ne veux PAS.

Jean: Je vous en prie

Pierre: Je ne veux POINT, vous dis-je!

X.—Prepositions

It has been said, with good reason, that no part of the French syntax is more difficult for a foreigner to master than the prepositions.

The rules laid out on that subject by the different grammars or handbooks are, of necessity, vague, unreliable and therefore of little value.

Against this kind of stumbling blocks we remain powerless, for a very long practice **only** can enable students to use the right preposition at the right place.

Here are, however, a few remarks from which you **may** derive some benefit.

I.—**De** is considerably more used than **à**. If you are in doubt, use **de** after nouns, adjectives and verbs; you will thus **lessen** the danger of making a mistake.

II.—Try to master the following list of verbs which are in constant use and require two prepositions (**à** with a noun; **de** with an infinitive).

Conseiller	à de
dire	à de
demander	à de
défendre	à de
ordonner	à de
persuader	à de
promettre	à de
proposer	à de
permettre	à de
rappeler	à de
refuser	à de
reprocher	à de
répondre	à de
souhaiter	à de

Rely upon practice for the rest and unless you enjoy an extraordinary memory, do not endeavor to learn by heart the lists given by grammars and handbooks, for these lists should be used only as works of reference.

XI.—Savoir, connaître

Two of the worst stumbling blocks of the French.

Remember that:

I.—To know that { **are** } **savoir que**
 To know if, etc { **savoir si**, etc

II.—**CONNAÎTRE** is always used with a direct object, and that object **cannot be** a VERB.

III.—**CONNAÎTRE**, and not **savoir**, is used in the meaning of "to be acquainted with."

XII.—Vieille, veille, vielle

Notice the spelling of these words:

vieille—old (fem.)
veille (f)—the eve
vielle (f)—hurdy gurdy

XIII.—Est-ce-que

Notice that if, in the course of a conversation, you experience some difficulty about the place of pronouns or the construction in general when you use **the interrogative form**, you can **always** begin the sentence with **EST-CE-QUE**, which does not alter the primitive construction of that sentence.

Examples:

He remembers: **il se souvient.**

Does he remember: **est-ce-qu'il se souvient?**

I would have given it to him: **je le lui aurais donné.**

Would I have given it to him: **est ce que je le lui aurais donné?**

Est-ce-que does not necessarily express "astonishment"—in spite of the affirmations of some grammarians.

XIV.—**En-à**

Do not use indifferently **EN**, **À**, or **DANS** when you wish to translate **in** or **at** before the name of a country or that of a city.

En is used with countries: **en France.**

à is used with cities: **à Paris.**

I am in my room at London in England:

Je suis DANS ma chambre À Londres EN Angleterre.

XV.—**Donc—Alors**

Donc shows subsequence, or emphasis. **Alors** shows consequence (as "in that case," "that being the case").

Pierre est un homme: **donc**, Pierre est mortel.

Venez **donc** (do come).

J'entrai, et **alors** je le vis par terre.

Vous ne pouvez pas venir? **Alors**, j'irai seul.

XVI.—**Près de—Prêt à.**

Près de is "near"; **Prêt à** is "ready to."

XVII.—**Retenir—Détenir.**

Détenir is always "to detain by force."

Il est **détenu**: he is in jail.

Il est **retenu**: he is detained (by business, etc.).

PART IX.

MISTAKES IN LETTER WRITING

I.—Do not write **Cher monsieur** [Dear Sir] to people whom you do not know. Use **Monsieur** alone.*

II.—Do not use **capitals** for names of **days** or **months** in the body of a sentence; these are not proper nouns in French.

III.—Do not use ordinal but cardinal numbers for dates.
The **fifteenth of January** is **LE QUINZE JANVIER**.

IV.—At the end of a letter, do not translate **Yours truly** by "**votre vraiment**," "**votre sincèrement**" or anything of the sort. Although it is very difficult for a foreigner to fathom the depths and appreciate the multifarious shades of meaning of French epistolary formulas, here are some rules which the student may safely go by.

- | | | |
|---|----------|--|
| (a) in a business letter | write: { | Recevez, Monsieur, mes salutations empressées. |
| (b) to high officials, (representatives, etc.) | { | Veillez agréer, Monsieur le . . . l'assurance de ma haute considération. |
| (c) to some one with whom you are acquainted but not intimate | { | Recevez, je vous prie, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée. |
| (d) a little less formal | { | Croyez, cher monsieur, à mes meilleurs sentiments. |
| (e) a man to a woman | { | Veillez agréer, Madame, mes respectueux hommages. |
| (f) to a friend | { | Bien à vous.
Tout à vous.
Votre tout dévoué.
Sincèrement à vous.
Votre affectionné. |

VI.—Do not translate literally, at the end of a letter, **Respectfully** or **Yours respectfully**. This expression, which is meaningless in English epistolary style, is always taken in its proper sense in French, and therefore used only from inferior to superior in business or civil service. A woman specially should be very careful to avoid it in French when writing to a man.

* The practice of addressing people, in a letter or in conversation, by their family name—"i.e." **Monsieur Blank** or **Cher monsieur Blank**, is to be avoided, as it is somewhat vulgar in French nowadays.

Wrong expressions.	Correct expressions.
Donnez lui mes amours. [give her my love.] [from a woman to a woman.]	Faites lui toutes mes amitiés.
Avec mes regards. [with kind regards.]	Avec mes meilleurs souvenirs.
Rappelez moi à lui. [remember me to him.]	Rappelez moi à son bon souvenir.
Votre respectueusement [Yours very respectfully.] [from inferior to superior, in civil service, etc.]	Je reste avec respect votre humble serviteur.

PART X.

ERRONEOUS FRENCH QUOTATIONS.

A number of French words, expressions or sentences which are offered as foreign quotations and usually written in italics in English literature, are not properly spelt or correctly used. Anyone who studies French should avoid, above all, this particular kind of "stumbling blocks."

The list hereafter appended contains only the most common misquotations. There are many others.

Au fond. Right enough when taken in the meaning of "at bottom," "at the bottom," "in reality," is wrong if used for "thoroughly" which is, in French,

à fond.

Aventurier is sometimes used with the meaning of a "venturesome character, a happy-go-lucky fellow, fond of change," etc. This is wrong, as the word is always contemptuous in French.

Blanc-mange should be spelt

Blanc-manger
(white food)

Chef. It is a widely spread misconception to consider this name as referring always to a cook. It is in reality the regular translation of "chief."

Chacun à son goût. As this expression means "every one has his own taste," the word "a" is a verb and must not take the accent.

Demi-tasse is sometimes mistaken for half a cup of coffee. It means a cup of coffee without milk.

Femme de chambre is NOT a chambermaid but a lady's maid. "Chambermaid" is

Fille de chambre.

Gendarme. This word is often misused by foreigners. The "Gendarme" is a rural guard, NOT a city policeman. The latter is called: in Paris: **Gardien de la Paix**. elsewhere: **Sergent de ville** or **Agent de police**.

Négligée [morning dress] should not be spelt with two "e." The French word is

négligé.
"She is in **négligé**."

- Papier mache** should be spelt **papier mâché**
for the last word is the past participle of the verb **mâcher** [to chew].
- Pell-mell** when dressed up in italics as a French idiom is not spelt correctly. The French expression is:
pêle-mêle.
- Réchauffé** [old material worked up again]. Should be spelt with one "e." The French word is
réchauffé.
"It is a **réchauffé** of an old book."
- Sans culotte** is NOT a "ragged fellow," as a well known dictionary puts it, but a patriot who during the French Revolution had discarded the breeches (culottes), an aristocratic garb, for the plain trousers.
- Sacre!** an exclamation commonly attributed to French characters by some comic papers, is NOT CORRECT. It means "coronation." The correct expression in French is
Sacrebleu!
derived from **Sacré Dieu** [by the sacred God].
- Naïve.** Right enough when you speak of a woman, is not correct when referring to a man. In that case write or say:
naïf [na-iff]
- A revoir!** used for "good bye!" is not correct, for, to a Frenchman, it means: "to be revised." Write or say:
au revoir
- En suite.** This expression is correct when used in the meaning of
"following each other."
For instance:
"I rented three rooms **en suite.**"
although **se faisant suite** is more generally employed in order to avoid a confusion with the adverb **ENSUITE** (afterwards). But **en suite** is WRONG when used with the meaning of
"as a complement,"
"as an accompaniment."
In the following paragraph, culled from the Fashion Notes of a leading New York daily:
"also Siberian squirrel with stole-fronted collar-ette and huge Directoire muff **en suite,**"
the quotation is faulty.

Fleur de lis.

The last word in this quotation is usually pronounced "li" (in English "lee"). This is a **mistake**, for the final "s" must be sounded.

However, in heraldry, this "s" is mute. Therefore the following rhymes are correct in a poem on a crest:

"He chose the **Fleur de lis**.
All men shall see
My **Fleur de lis**
To think of me."

Klio Club, Chicago, 1902.

Mayonnaise

must not be pronounced

may-onnaise, but
ma-i-onnaise

[English: **mah-ee-onnaise**.]

Encore.

It is absolutely incorrect **from** a French point of view, to say:

The singer had many "**encores**."
The proper word is: **rappel** or: **bis**.

A Frenchman would say:
Tel morceau a été BISSÉ plusieurs fois.

Double entendre

is not correct. The correct expression is:

à double entente

[**entente** is meaning; **entendre**, to hear.]

de gaité du cœur.

This expression has been used by several writers, for instance by Mrs. Oliphant in her "**Life of Richard Brinsley Sheridan**."

Say: **de gaité de cœur**.

à l'outrance.

[to the utmost].

Say: **à outrance**.

soubriquet

is not French. If the good old English word "nickname," which means the same thing, does not suit you, and if you wish to use what Professor Hill calls "borrowed finery,"

Say: **sobriquet**.

vis à vis.

A much more useful loan from the French, is correct only if it is pronounced: **vi-za-vi**.

[English: **vee-zah-vee**]

PART XI.

A FEW HINTS

TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY IN UNDER-
STANDING FRENCH

I.—Bear in mind that the **greatest obstacle** in that matter lies in the habit of French speaking people to **carry over** or “link” the **final consonant of words**. This practice makes it difficult for the novice to catch the words independently from one another.*

In consequence, we advise the student to get **thoroughly familiar** himself with the linking of final consonants by “drilling” carefully and patiently.

II.—Notice the difference of meaning resulting from a different accentuation of the same word. (See Appendix on Pronunciation, III. Miscellaneous.)

III.—You will avoid some misinterpretations by mastering the following list, containing nouns which **sound** alike although their spelling may differ.

* To the untrained ear a sentence like this: *les ennemis arrivent en un instant*, seems to be a single long word; moreover, the carrying over of the “t” of *arrivent* is misleading, for it gives a sound to a third person plural which would be silent otherwise.

A FEW HINTS TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING FRENCH

a, has [he] bai, bay [color]	à, to, at baie, bay [geog.]	baie, light [win- dow] bât, pack-saddle	bat[il]beats [he]
balai, broom bas, stocking bois, wood car, for champ, field cher, dear cité, city coin, corner col, collar conte, tale coq, rooster cou, neck court, court	ballet, ballet bas, low bois[je]drinks[l] quart, quart chant, song chair, flesh cité, quoted coing, quince col, pass compte, account coque, shell coup, stroke court, short	chaire, pulpit colle, mucilage comte, count coût, cost cours, hunt	
cousin, cousin crâne, skull encre, ink faim, hunger fait, fact flan, cheesecake fond, bottom	cousin, gnat crâne, plucky ancre, anchor fin, end fait [il] makes[he] flanc, flank fonds, fund	fin, fine fée, fairy fonds, font[reli- g.]	font[ils]make [they]
frais [le] fresh air fumée, smoke	frais[les]expenses fumet, flavour, scent	frai, spawn	
gage [le], pledge gale, itch gaz, gas gelée, frost	gages [les]wages Galles, Wales gaze, gauze gelée, jelly	gelé, frozen	

gens [es] people	Jean, John	gent [la] tribe, folk [poet]	j'en [ai], I have some
glace, ice	glace, looking- glass		
hôtel, hotel	autel, altar		
joue, cheek	joue [je], play [I]	joug, yoke	
lis, lily	lice, lists [to en- ter the]	lisse, smooth	
long, long	l'on, one, they		
louer, to praise	louer, to let		
lune, moon	l'une, the one		
mer, sea	mère, mother		
mine, mine	mine, mien, look		
mon, my	mont, mount		
mot, word	maux, evils		
mur, wall	mûre, mulberry	mûr, ripe	
ne, not	neud, knot		
né, born	nez, nose	n'est, is not	
neuf, nine	neuf, new		
ni, neither	nid, nest		
ou, or	où, where		
outré, besides	outré, leather bottle	houx, holly	août, august
pain, bread	pin, pine	peins [je], paint	ho
pair, even [num- ber]	paire, pair	Pair, Peer	perds [je], lose [I]
pan, tail [of coat]	Pan, Pan [myth]	pan ! bang !	pends [je] hang [I]
pas, not	pas, step		pare [je] ward off
par, by	part, part [a]	pars [je] depart [I]	[I]
parti [le], party	partie, part	parti, departed	paon, peacock
peau, skin	pot, pot		
penser, to think	panser, to groom	pensée, pansy	
père, father	paire, pair	pair, peer	pair, par
plaine, plain, field	pleine, full [fem.]		

A FEW HINTS TO STUDENTS WHO HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING FRENCH

plat, flat	plat, dish	plu, pleased	porc, porc	
plus, more	plu, rained	poix, pitch		
poi, pea	poids, weigh	poing, fist		
point, not	point, point	pore, pore		
port, port	port, postage			
pou, louse	pouls, pulse			
pré, meadow	près, near	prêt, ready		
prix, price	pris, taken			
rat, rat	ras, close, flat			
ré, D [music]	raie, stripe	raie, skate [fish]		
riz, rice	ri, laughed			
roue, wheel	roux, reddish			
sain, wholesome	saint, saint	sein, breast	seing, signature [leg.]	
sale, dirty	salle, hall	cent, hundred	sens[je], I smell	
sang, blood	sans, without	sceau, seal	seau, bucket	
saut, jump	sot, silly	Cène, Lord's Sup-		
scène, scene	saine, wholesome (fem.)	per		
scie, saw	si, if	si, so	si, B [music]	sis, six [before consonant]
scieur, sawer	sieur, sir	ceux, those		
se, oneself	ce, this			
sense, sense	cens, census			
siège, seat	siège, siege			
signe, sign	cygne, swan			
sire, sire	cire, wax			
soi, oneself	soie, silk	soit [qu'il], let it be		
son, his	son, sound	son, bran	sont [ils], are [they]	
suite [la], follow- ing	suites, [les], con- sequences			

sur, upon tate, pillow case	sûr, sure tate, speck [eye]	sûr, sour thé, tea	tais [je me], I keep silent	
tare, tare taux, rate teint, complexion temps, time tente, tent tien, thine tort, wrong toux, cough tribu, tribe trot, trot veau, veal	tard, late tôt, early tain, tinfoil tant, so much tante, aunt tiens [je], hold [I] tors, twisted tout, all tribut, tribute trop, too much vos, your	teint, dyed taon, gad fly toue, ferry-boat vaux [je], worth [I am]		
veine, vein vent, wind ver, worm	vaine, vain [fem.] van, winnowing basket vers, verse	vers, towards vingt, twenty	vert, green verre, glass	vair, a kind of fur
vin, wine vu, seen	vain, vain (m) vue, sight			

PART XII.

A LIST

OF VERY FAMILIAR EXPRESSIONS OR WORDS

Commonly Used by the French in Conversation or Current Literature.

THIS list is quite an innovation in an educational work.

Let it be understood from the first that it is **not** a short dictionary of slang, although it contains a few expressions which are undoubtedly "poor French." All the words hereafter classified are constantly used in familiar style or conversation; many of them indeed are not disowned by French Academiciens; but few have gained admission to the standard dictionaries, and this is why we have grouped them together as methodically as possible.

The following is chiefly a REFERENCE LIST, although the student might occasionally make use himself of these "familiar expressions." The words which are not strictly **bon ton** will be found marked with a †

QUALIFYING MAN

un âne b ^â té [a saddled ass]	a regular ass
une culotte de peau [buckskin breeches]	a stultified old warrior
un débrouillard	a handy fellow
un drôle de corps* [funny body]	a queer fellow
un d ^û r à cuire [hard to cook]	a hardy one
un foudre de guerre	a mighty warrior
une ganache	a dotard
un gabelou	'custom house officer
un gniaf	cobbler
un gogo	a "credulous flat"
un iroquois	a "rum one"
un jobard	a "flat"
un larbin	a flunkey
un loup de mer [sea-wolf]	Jack Tar
un loup garou [were wolf]	a "bear"

* Also un drôle de paroissien [lit: a funny parishioner.]

un maître homme	a clever man
une maritorne	a wench
un mirliflore, [muscadin]	a regular fop
un Mr. Chose	Mr. What's his name
un paltoquet	a clumsy lout
un pioupiou	foot soldier "boy in blue" "red coat" [England]
un pipelet	janitor
un petit maître	a fop, a snob
un pleurard	one who is always crying
un pleutre	a contemptible man
un pochard	a drunkard
un pion [man (at draughts)]	usher [in a school]
un rabat-joie [joy killer]	a "wet blanket"
un raseur [raser: to shave]†	a bore
un rat de cave [cellar rat]	excise man
un rat d'église [church rat]	church beggar
un rat d'opéra [opéra-rat]†	ballet girl
un raté [a miss]†	a "dead failure"
un rond de cuir [a rubber-seat cushion]	a sedentary man
un roublard	a shrewd one
un sagouin	a slovenly fellow
un salaud	a dirty fellow
un saligaud	a nasty individual
une sangsue [leech]	a "blood sucker"
une sainte-n'y-touche	a smooth hypocrite
un triste sire	a wicked man
un vert galant	a ladies' man
une vieille potiche [old Chinese vase]	old "stick in the mud"
un voyou	a cad

VERBS

Avoir une dent contre	to have a grudge against
Avoir la langue bien pendue [a tongue which hangs well]	to be a slanderer
Avoir son pompon [a top knot]†	to be "very gay"
Blaguer	to tell fibs
Bouffer [to puff, to swell]†	to eat
Bûcher	to study hard

Chipoter [se]	to dally, to haggle
Embêter†	to bore some one to death
Envoyer promener	to send some one "to the shades"
Faire la barbe à [to shave]	to bore some one
Faire une boulette [a pellet]	to blunder
Faire une brioche [a bun]†	to make a mistake
Faire de l'épate, de l'esbrouff†	to "bluff"
Faire un four	to make a blunder, to be a "dead failure"
Faire une gaffe [a boat hook]	to make a blunder
Faire son deuil de [to get in mourning for]	to give up as hopeless
Faire la noce [wedding feast]†	to have a "jolly time"
Faire un pied de nez à [to make a nose one foot long]	to snub some one
Filer	to skip
Financer†	to pay, to "cough up"
Finir mal [to end badly]	to come to a bad end
Fourrer†	to place, to put, to "jam"
Gueuler [from Gueule, jaw]†	to brawl, to "jaw"
Laver la tête à [to wash some-body's head]	to give a lecture to
Mettre dedans	to "take in," to "do" some one
Potasser	to study hard
Rebiffer [se]†	to be refractory, to "kick"
Trimbalier	to drag about
Trimer	to drudge
Turlupiner	to ridicule

ADJECTIVES.

Détraqué	"cracked"
Fichu	very poor [fig.] "done for"
Flou*	soft
Mirobolant	stunning, "first rate"
Puant [stinking]†	conceited
Rigolo†	very funny
Salé [salted]	{ very expensive
Toqué [Toque: a cap]	{ c'est salé: That is salting it on!
Veule	"cranky," "crazy"
	"soft," shifty [a man]

* This word is getting more and more used every year, specially in Paris.

NOUNS.

Bachot	Abrev. for Baccalauréat [a bachelor degree]
Bagou	the gift of the gab
Barbe [à sa barbe]	to his face
Blague [tobacco-pouch]	fib
Bosse [du dessin, de la musique]	the gift [of drawing, etc.]
Canard [a duck]	bogus news
Claque [a slap]	troop of hired applauders
Clou [a nail]	a "hit"
Conte à dormir debout	idle tale
roûte [a crust]	rubbish; [picture]: "daub"
Cuir [leather]	vulgar mispronunciation
Dada [horse]	hobby
la Haute or la Haute Pègre	the "swell mob"
Galette [a sort of butter cake]†	money, "dough"
Langue verte [the green tongue]	a name for slang
Machine	very commonly used in French: "Cette machine—là", That thing
Panade [bread soup]	a "fix" "Etre dans la panade," To be in a "fix"
Pâté [pie]	blot of ink
Patraque	of things: out of order; of man: "shaky"
Platine [plate]	the gift of the gab
Quibus [du]	"tin"
Riflard	old family umbrella
Sac [bag]†	"Il a le sac" He is a money bag
Saint-frusquin	the whole outfit, the whole kit, "one's brass"
Sapin [pine wood]†	a cab
Scie [une] [saw]	of things: a bore
Toutou	little dog
Truc	a trick
Veste [waistcoat]	a failure
Vieux jeu	old fashioned idea, "C'est vieux jeu"

SUNDRIES.

Boire du lait [to drink milk]	to be "in clover"
Cela ne passe pas!	It is "no go"

C'est dernier cri [last cry]*

C'est du propre! [clean]

C'est épatant!

Etre à sec [dry]

Il n'a que la peau sur les os

Il a une araignée dans le plafond [a spider in his ceiling]

Il a mis du foin dans ses bottes
[He put hay in his shoes]

Jeter sa langue aux chiens
[to throw one's tongue to the dogs]

Manger de la vache enragée
[to feast on mad cow]

Attrape!

Allez y voir! [go and see it]

Faire le pied de grue [to stand on one foot like a crane]

Descends de ton cheval!

Que oui!

Vous n'êtes guère dégourdi
[you are hardly thawed out]

Quatre pelés et un tondu [four bald ones and a shorn one]

Comptez-y et buvez de l'eau claire!
[rely upon it and drink pure water]

Il se gobe [he swallows himself]

Une famille huppée
[a crested family]

Un vieux de la vieille
[a veteran from the Old Guard]

It's entirely new, the last thing!

That's nice! [sarcasm]

It's stunning!

to be hard up

He is only skin and bones

He has a bee in his bonnet

He feathered his nest

to give up guessing

to have hard times

Catch that!—Good for you, for him!
Believe it if you can!—Get it if you can!

to wait patiently

Come down from your pedestal—
Don't "bluff" any more!

Yes, to be sure!

You do not know much how to manage

a very poor audience, a half empty house [at the theatre]

You are a fool if you rely upon it

He has a "big head"

A "crack," a "swell" family

An old "dog of war"

* This expression is a great favorite at present in Paris.

PART XIII.

ABOUT SOME ENGLISH AND FRENCH AFFIXES, ETC.

STUDENTS are often embarrassed in trying to translate into French the English **NOUNS*** ending in **full, less, load** and so forth.

On the other hand, some endings, in French, indicate plainly by themselves that the words to which they belong are terms of disparagement or even of contempt. Some others, which are merely affixes, modify the quality expressed by the original word.

Here are some rules or remarks which we should wish to impress on the learner's mind.

I.—ENGLISH AFFIXES

1. **less**

Is very often rendered by the preposition **sans** followed by the noun.

Example: He was coatless, hatless and penniless. [*Il était sans habit, sans chapeau et sans le sou.*]

2. **load**

See No. 3 (affix full).

3. **full**

Is generally rendered by the French affix **ÉE** added to the primitive. Sometimes, for euphony or otherwise, the spelling of the latter is more or less changed in the derivative.

(a) Primitive not altered

une aire [barn-floor]	airée [barn-floor full of sheaves]
une aiguille [needle]	aiguillée [needleful]
une assiette [plate]	assiettée [plateful]
une auge [trough]	augée [troughful]
la bouche [mouth]	bouchée [mouthful (solids)]
la brouette [wheelbarrow]	brouettée [wheelbarrow load]
la chambre [room]	chambrée [roomful (milit)]
la charrette [cart]	charrettée [cartload]
la cuve [vat]	cuvée [vatful]

* We are speaking of nouns, not of adjectives.

la cuiller [spoon]	cuillerée [spoonful]
la gorge [throat]	gorgée [mouthful (liquids)]
la hotte [hod]	hottée [hodful]
la pince [pincers]	pincée [pincers full, pinch]
le plat [dish]	platée [dishful]
la plume [pen]	plumée [pen full (of ink)]
la poêle [pan]	poêlée [panful]
le pot [mug]	potée [mugful]
le rang [row]	rangée [full row]

(b) Primitive* altered

le bec [bill (of birds)]	becquée [billful]
le bras [arm]	brassée [armful]
le four [oven]	fournée [ovenful]
la lèvre [lip]	lippée [mouthful (animals)]
la maison [house]	maisonnée [houseful]
le nid [nest]	nichée [nestful]
la panier [basket]	pannerée [basketful]
la pelle [shovel]	pelletée [shovelful]
le poêlon [pan]	poêlonnée [panful]
le poing [fist]	poignée [handful]
le sac [sack]	sachée [sackful]
le wagon [wagon, car]	wagonnée [wagonload, carload]

(c) French nouns in which the affix *ÉE* could be translated by
"the space of."

un an [year]	année [the space of a year]
chevaux [horses]	chevauchée [the space or duration of a raid]
le jour [day]	journée [the space of a day, a day's progress in traveling]
le matin [morning]	matinée [the space of a morning]
le soir [evening]	soirée [the space of an evening]
la veille [staying up]	veillée [the space or length of time during which one sits up]

II.—FRENCH AFFIXES

I. *âtre*

Added to adjectives it *lessens* the quality expressed by the primitive.

Examples: **bleu**: **bleuâtre** [bluish, etc.]

rouge: **rougeâtre**
noir: **noirâtre**
vert: **verdâtre**
blanc: **blanchâtre**

also **bellâtre**, a foppish fellow
douceâtre, sweetish
gentillâtre, a would-be gentleman
marâtre, a cruel mother or stepmother

2. **asse**

Often conveys an idea of **thickness** for things, of **dullness** for persons.

Examples: bon [good]	bonasse [simple, silly]
soupe [soup]	soupasse [thick soup]
millet [millet]	millasse (pudding made of millet)
ville [town]	villasse [an outgrown village]

3. **ette**

Is used for diminutive.

Examples: amour [love]	amourette [little love affair]
biche [hind]	bichette [little hind—term of endearment]
broche [spit]	brochette [skewer]
boule [ball]	boulette [pellet]
chemise	chemisette
col [collar]	collerette
couche [bed]	couchette [cot]
courbe [curve]	courbette [cringing]
cuve [vat]	cuvette [handbasin]
gras [fat]	grassouillette [plump]
hache [axe]	hachette [hatchet]
histoire [story]	historiette [little story]
montagne [mountain]	montagnette [hill]
poule [hen]	poulette [pet hen]
Jeanne	Jeannette
Marie	Mariette
Paule	Paulette
etc.	

4. **rogne**

This ending, which seems quite unmusical to a French ear, is not frequent; but in every instance it belongs to a word which expresses something repulsive.

Examples

ivrogne, a drunkard
trogne the face of a drunkard
charogne a carrion

As for **rogne** itself, it means a kind of skin disease!

5. **ment**

This affix is the characteristic of **adverbs** and corresponds to the English affix **ly**. **Remember** that, in French, adverbs are usually formed from adjectives by adding **MENT** to the feminine form of the latter.

grand	grande	grandement
doux	douce	doucement

6. Prefix **re**

Notice that the idea expressed in English by "back" or "again" is rendered by the prefix **RE** in French.

to come **back**, **revenir**
to do **again** **refaire**

7. Ending **ir**

Many verbs of the second conjugation, ending thus, convey the idea of a physical or moral change: **pâlir**, to grow pale; **rougir**, to blush; **vieillir**, to grow old; **s'abêtir**, to become silly, etc.

PART XIV.

ABOUT SOME POPULAR TYPES OR CHARACTERS COMMONLY ALLUDED TO IN FRENCH LITERATURE OR CONVERSATION.

IN French, more, perhaps, than in any other tongue, frequent references are made to sundry characters of the masterpieces of the national literature, which have become, so to speak, regular adjectives. Some of these, it is true, have acquired a world-wide fame; but most of them do not convey any meaning to the mind of foreigners.

That is why we have assimilated them to the other "stumbling blocks" of the language.

Gargantua

An immortal creation in the masterpiece of Rabelais bearing this title.

A popular name to designate a man endowed with an insatiable appetite.

Cet enfant est un vrai Gargantua.

Les moutons de Panurge

This expression depicts people who hurry to do a thing just for imitation's sake and without any good reason. It is an allusion to Panurge's sheep in Rabelais's *Pantagruel*.

Raminagrobis

A name given to a cat by La Fontaine in one of his fables. Very often applied since, in a bantering way, to this animal.

Origin: a character in Rabelais's *Gargantua*.

Dulcinée

"*Dulcinée*," in French, is generally applied, as a term of contempt, to the lady love of some inexperienced youth.

Origin: *Dulcinée*, from Toboso, in Cervantes's *Don Quixote*.*

Scapin

A prominent character in *Les Fourberies de Scapin*, by Molière.

It is the type of the impudent and crafty "valet."

Tartufe

Another character in one of Molière's comedies (*Le Tartufe*). Will remain for ever in French the impersonation of hypocrisy.

* This is, as the reader can see, borrowed from the Spanish literature.

Harpagon

The leading character in *L'Avare*, a comedy by Molière. Is the classical type of the miser.

Ce vieux Harpagon [this old miser.]

Georges Dandin

Also from a comedy by Molière. Is given, as a nickname, to a man who has married above his condition, and is obliged to endure with patience his wife's whims and extravagance.

L'avocat Patelin

A very amusing comedy by Palaprat [1706.] The leading character, a rather disreputable barrister, is to-day the type of the unscrupulous and soft-tongued lawyer.

Quasimodo

This character of Hugo's *Notre Dame de Paris* gave birth to the popular expression:

Laid comme Quasimodo

[as ugly as Quasimodo]

Perrette

The impersonation of the dreamer, who builds castles in the air.

Origin: the milkwoman in La Fontaine's *Perrette et le Pot au lait*.

Père Goriot

A character in one of Balzac's best works.

Impersonates a weak father, ill-treated by his children.

Roger Bontemps

[Roger Good-Time.] Béranger, the great French song writer, made this character very popular by his famous lines:

Vivre obscur à sa guise,

Narguer les mécontents

Eh gai! c'est la devise

Du gros Roger Bontemps.

A "bon vivant," enamored of life, and happy in spite of all.

Mimi Pinson

"Pinson," a chaffinch.

"Gai comme pinson" corresponds to the English "lively as a lark."

Mimi Pinson, the graceful and immensely popular creation of Alfred de Musset, is a female Roger Bontemps. Often applied to impecunious shop-girls or seamstresses who face bad luck with cheerfulness and courage.

Le marquis de Carabas

A character of Perrault's *Chat Botté* (Puss in the boots), who became rich, thanks to the craft and the audacity of his pet cat.

Applied to a "nouveau riche," who has been more lucky than industrious.

Robert Macaire

A creation of the famous playwright, Frédéric Lemaître. The type of the modern "sharp."

Tartarin

The hero of a series of Alphonse Daudet's novels. Such was the success of this work that "**Tartarin**" became very quickly in France the impersonation of the Southern man; boastful and noisy, but, at bottom, as guileless as a child.

Joseph Prud'homme

A creation of Henri Monnier, a very witty French writer. Mr. Prud'homme personifies the "**bourgeois**," ponderous, solemn and silly. Many of his utterances are classical, so to speak, in French literature. For instance:

Ce sabre est le plus beau jour de ma vie
[this sword is the happiest day of my life].

Le char de l'Etat navigue sur un volcan.
[the chariot of the State navigates upon a volcano].

French cartoonists often bring Mr. Prud'homme into play.

Jacques Bonhomme

Characterizes the whole French people, and corresponds to the English John Bull and to the American Uncle Sam.

Usually represented as a good-natured countryman, held in bondage in old times by the "**seigneurs**," and nowadays by the red tape and the "circumlocution offices" of the omnipotent French **Administration**.

Père Loriquet

A French historian, who died in 1865. Has remained the type of a silly old man, always afraid of improprieties.

Dumanet

is the French Tommy Atkins.

Colonel Ramollot

[A new creation] Is among the officers what Dumanet is in the rank and file.

Origin: **ramolli** [a "soft one."]

Pandore

The usual nickname of the **gendarme** (French constabulary). Has its origin in a witty song which brings into play a corporal of constables and a private, named Pandore, the latter blindly acquiescing in everything his superior officer chances to say.

Cahno

From **câlin** [wheedling, lazy]; a type of soft-minded weakly man; something like "Pat" of the American comic papers.

Always represented in the garb of a city dweller.

Marlborough

The French, seemingly to get even with the English General Marlborough, who had defeated them often at the beginning of the eighteenth century, made him the hero of a burlesque ballad. His name, wrongly pronounced **mal-brou**, became extremely popular with many generations of Frenchmen; and "**Marlborough s'en va-t-en guerre**" is still a song dear to the school-children of France. Curiously enough, the tune adapted to the words is that of the English song, "For he is a jolly good fellow."

Les quatre-z'officiers de Marlborough—an expression sometimes used to designate busy bodies, who talk much and do nothing.

Mr. de la Palice

A famous French general, killed at Pavia in 1525. Like Marlborough, he became popular through a burlesque song. There is no child in France who did not dance or sing the *ronde* "**Mr. de la Palice est mort.**"

Although Marshal de la Palice was by no means a silly man, the legend attributes to him a great many speeches and remarks ridiculously commonplace. Hence the expression, **Vérité de la Palice**, to designate an emphatic and lengthy exposition of a self-evident fact.

Le roi Dagobert

Like the two warriors above mentioned, King Dagobert, one of the ablest rulers France ever had, was unfortunate enough to be ridiculized in a ballad, together with his State Minister, Saint Eloi. To the French, this king is certainly better known as **le roi qui met sa culotte à l'envers** [the king who puts on his breeches wrong side out] than as the greatest legislator of the seventh century.

C'est comme le roi Dagobert is an expression not unfrequently used when speaking of a man who finds himself, by his own fault, "in a nice mess."

La mère Michel

A very familiar figure in children's books. Represents an elderly widow who worships an unmanageable cat. This appellation is, of course, often bestowed upon old maids, in popular literature.

La Fée Carabosse

One of the ugliest characters in the French fairy tales. A term of contempt to qualify an old gossip, a mischief-maker.

- Cartouche and Mandrin** Two famous French banditti in the eighteenth century. Their names are frequently given to bold highwaymen.
- Colombine** Originally a character in the old Italian comedy; now one of the characters of the country fair theatre in France. A kind of "soubrette."
- Jocrisse** Originally a character in the street shows of old France. Now a sort of "soft," a "green youth" (country shows).
- Pierrot** An ordinary character of the French pantomime, always clad in white, with the face sprinkled over with flour.
- Arlequin** Like Colombine, belonged at first to the old Italian comedy. A common disguise at fancy dress balls, and an ubiquitous figure in the streets on Mardi Gras. His dress is made up of numberless pieces of cloth of all colors: hence the name of **Arlequin**, given in French to a man who in politics has no conviction of his own, a "regular weather cock."
- Paillasse** Same origin as Arlequin and Colombine. A sort of clown who is used outside of the show to attract the attention of passers by and draw them in. This name is also a term of contempt applied to low politicians.
- Polichinell** Same origin as above. Used in Italy to represent the Neapolitan citizen, vulgar, but witty and sarcastic. In France he degenerated into a humpbacked and gaily attired character of the popular "farces," personifying the Gallic wit and humor. Of late, he has lost much of his old importance. He is hardly found now elsewhere than in the Punch and Judy show (in French: **Guignol**).
- Auguste [alias Guguss]** A nickname commonly given of late to the circus clowns.
- Smalah** In Arabian, the private convoy or train of a chief. The capture of Abd-El-Kader's Smalah by the Duc d'Aumale in 1842 has popularized this word in France, where it is used to-day to designate a retinue of servants, or a family with many children, etc.

- Les naufragés de la Méduse** The wreck of the ship *La Méduse*, in July, 1816, is justly considered in France as the most terrible tragedy of the sea. The hideous scenes which took place on the famous raft made up of the "**débris**" of the *Meduse*, are frequently alluded to in literature, and the disaster itself employed metaphorically in many ways.
- La marquise de Pretintaille** A type created by Beranger to represent the prejudices of the old nobility in France.
- Landerneau** A city in Brittany, which enjoys the privilege of being made fun of by comic papers and playwrights.
- Carpentras** Same explanation. These cities, (and sometimes Brives-la-Gaillarde), are the "Oshkoshs and Kalamazoos" of France.
- Camelots du Roy** A society of young French royalists who, a few years ago, started to sell political papers on the Paris streets. Arrested because they did not possess a license as "Camelots" [street vendors], they complied with the law, but took up the name in question. The society was founded by Chas. Mourras and Léon Daudet.

SUPPLEMENT TO PART XIV

- Adrets** [Baron des] A Protestant general, during the Religious Wars in France, famous for his cruelty. Remained the type of the party leader who disgraces himself by atrocious reprisals.
- Agnès** The innocent maiden who knows nothing of life and uses unwittingly the most objectionable expressions. Origin: a character in Molière's *L'Ecole des Femmes*.
- Alceste** Leading character in Molière's *Misanthrope*. Personifies a gruff, outspoken man-hater.
- Amadis** The hero of a famous romance of the knighthood period. **Amadis de Gaule** is the type of the faithful and chivalrous lover.
- Angot** [Mme.] A popular type which stigmatizes the ridiculous traits of the new social class springing up after the French Revolution. Applied now to a very vulgar "nouveau riche."
- Anne** [Soeur] In Perrault's *Barbe Bleue*, the watchful sister of Bluebeard's last wife. Personifies expectation or anxiety. Writers use often, in many ways, her well known answer to her sister, "*Non, je ne vois que le soleil qui poudroie et l'herbe qui verdoie.*"
- Artaban** A Parthian king, very proud and dignified. **Fier comme Artaban** is a commonly used proverb.
- Beau Ténébreux** The type of the gloomy and mysterious lover. Origin: the name assumed by Amadis (see above) after a quarrel with his lady love.
- Bertrand et Raton** Often used to designate a deceiver and his victim. Origin: one of La Fontaine's Fables, in which the Cat pulls the chestnuts out of the fire for the benefit of the Monkey.
- Bilboquet** A character in *Les Saltimbanques*, a play by Dumersan and Varin (1838). The type of the unscrupulous business man who, when things look dark, thinks only of putting the firm's money in a safe place.
- Bobèche** The nickname of a celebrated French clown (1809), immensely popular and very witty. Remained the type of a clown in a second-rate circus.
- Brid'oison** A comical character in Beaumarchais' *Mariage de Figaro*. The type of the ignorant judge who is a great stickler for form.
- Buridan** A scholastic theologian of the XIVth Century, well known as the originator of the argument called *L'Ane de Buridan*, and which is used in literature to show the situation of a man obliged to choose between

- two opposite things—as the donkey between water and oats.
- Cadet Roussel** One of Calino's ancestors (see page 77). Originated in a French regiment (1792) as a type of a silly and prim veteran. Became very popular as the hero of a song for children.
- Candide** The type of the optimistic philosopher. Origin: a leading character in one of Voltaire's novels.
- Cendrillon** The Cinderella of the English.
- César Birotteau** The hero of one of Balzac's novels, who remained the type of the weak-minded "bourgeois" harassed by a multitude of "sharps."
- Charmant [Prince]** The **Deus ex Machina** who comes just in time to unravel the villain's plot. [From a popular character of the fairy tales.]
- Chicaneau** Personifies disputatious people, fond of law-suits, etc. Taken from a leading character in Racine's **Les Plaideurs**.
- Chrysale** An extremely popular creation of Molière in **Les Femmes Savantes**. The type of the conservative, "sit-by-the-fire" man. His utterance, "**Je vis de bonne soupe et non de beau langage**," is constantly used in literature as well as in conversation.
- Crac [Mr. de]** A character in a play by Colin d'Harleville. A man who tells impossible stories: the French Munchhausen.
- Crillon** The expression **Pends toi, brave Crillon: tu n'y étais pas** is often used to deplore a friend's absence on some occasion. Origin: a note of Henri IV to his friend Crillon after a battle.
- Diafoirus** A character in the immortal satire of Molière, **Le Malade Imaginaire**. Personifies a vain and ignorant physician.
- Dimanche [Mr.]** The type of the creditor who allows himself to be appeased by his debtor's fine speeches. [From a character in Molière's **Don Juan**.]
- Don César de Bazan** A care-free nobleman who after the loss of his fortune, retains his gay nonchalance, and wears his rags as if they were the most sumptuous garments. Origin: a character in Victor Hugo's **Ruy Blas**.
- Eliacin** In Racine's **Athalie**, a young prince secretly brought up by the high priest Joad. Characterizes the child of illustrious birth who happens to be, for a time, in a dangerous predicament.
- Eminence Grise [l']** The nickname of Père Joseph, a monk who was the confidant and adviser of Cardinal de Richelieu (1577-1638). In literature, a man behind the scenes, who has influence, but no responsibility.
- Fanfan-la-Tulipe** The type of the old-time French private soldier who divides his affections between wine and glory

- Figaro** An immortal creation of Beaumarchais, who used it in several comedies. Like the Scapin of Molière, it is a valet; but the former is purely comic and impertinent, while there is always a very fine satire in the utterances of Figaro.
- Gamache** [Noces de] Gamache's wedding feast, in Cervantes' *Don Quixote*. Used to depict a gorgeous repast.
- Gavroche** Parisian street-boy, witty, precocious, yet honest at bottom. Creation of Victor Hugo, in *Les Misérables*.
- Géronte** In the old French comedy: an elderly and dignified character. Later: an old dotard. [Molière used it already with this meaning.]
- Gévaudan** [bête du] Fantastic animal which is said to have appeared in 1765 in the part of France known as Gévaudan (to-day: Département of Lozère). In literature: something uncanny, mysterious, which turns up unexpectedly.
- Gigogne** [Mère] The mother of many children. Origin: a character in the French Punch and Judy show.
- Gil Blas** The title as well as the leading character in Le Sage's masterpiece (1715). Personifies an adventurous youth who lives by his wits.
- Gribouille** A popular creation, the origin of which is unknown. Refers to a blundering fellow who always jumps from the frying-pan into the fire.
- Gros-Jean** Another popular creation to personify a dreamer who never succeeds in anything he undertakes.
Etre Gros-Jean comme devant [after some attempt to rise]: to be no better than before.
- Josse** [Mr.] **Vous êtes orfèvre, Mr. Josse** [from a comedy by Molière] is often used to remind a man that he has a direct interest in the thing (or the business, etc.) he praises.
- Jourdain** [Mr.] A famous creation of Molière in *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*. Personifies admirably the "parvenu" who makes a fool of himself by aping the manners of the gentry.
- Lamourette** [Baisers] Qualifies ephemeral reconciliations. Origin: the one-day reconciliation brought about by a speech of Assemblyman Lamourette, in 1792, between the nobility and the people.
- Laridon** A "degenerated" dog in one of La Fontaine's Fables. Used nowadays to qualify a man who "goes down" by his own fault.
- Léandre** [Beau] A character in the old Italian comedy. Corresponds somewhat to Beau Brummel.
- Lustucru** A familiar figure in children's songs and stories. Represents an old villain, more silly than wicked. Origin: old French vaudeville.
- Mayeux** A type created by the cartoonist Traviès (1804-1859), and extremely popular between 1830 and 1848.

SOME STUMBLING BLOCKS

- It was a witty, polite, but somewhat vicious hunch-back, resembling Joseph Prudhomme and the Pasquino of the old Italian comedy.
- Maître Jacques** In Molière's **L'Avare**, is a Jack-of-all-trades in Harpagon's household. Used to designate in a bantering way a man who undertakes at the same time many different things.
- Paturot** [Jérôme] Used in literature to represent a man who is too weak-minded and irresolute to find his "position sociale" in this world. Origin: a clever satire of the French society during the "Monarchie de Juillet," by Reybaud (1843).
- Paysan du Danube** Designates a rough, uncouth man, who speaks plainly, but hits the right nail. [From one of La Fontaine's Fables.]
- Pernelle** [Mme.] A character created by Molière in **Le Tartufe**. Applied often to a meddling old lady who makes life a torment to her daughter-in-law.
- Philinthe** In Molière's **Misanthrope** this character is a contrast to that of the man-hater **Alceste**. Frequently alluded to in literature.
- Purgon** [Mr.] An excellent creation of Molière in the **Malade Imaginaire**. Remained the type of the fussy, punctilious and ignorant physician.
- Roland** Charlemagne's nephew, who was said to possess a magic sword called Durandal. **L'Epée de Roland** has been used metaphorically in many ways by writers and playwrights.
- Sosie** A Sosie, in French, means "the very image" of a person. Origin: a character of the old comedy.
- Tranche-Montagne** From "**trancher**" (to carve, to cut to pieces), a bully, a braggart. With his near relatives **Fier-à-Bras** and **Capitan**, he originated in the old comedy (French and Italian). His offspring in the modern French novel is **Capitaine Fracasse**, the very popular hero of a "blood-and-thunder" story by **Th. Gautier** (1863).
- Trissotin** A famous character in Molière's **Les Femmes Savantes**. Personifies a vain, affected, though worthless poet.
- Turlupin** A term of contempt to designate a man who makes poor or improper jokes. The verb **turlupiner** comes from this word [see page 68]. Origin: the nickname of a XIVth Century actor.
- Vatel** A famous cook of the Prince de Condé. Killed himself because the fish ordered for a royal repast did not arrive exactly on time (1671). Often brought into play by novelists and playwrights.

APPENDIX

STUMBLING BLOCKS IN FRENCH PRONUNCIATION

THIS is **not**, by any means, a treatise on pronunciation.

Our only aim here is to warn students against some serious mistakes **very often** made by foreigners in reading or speaking French.

DIFFICULTY NO. I

The letter S.

It is a common mistake for English speaking people to make no difference between "s" and "ss" in the body of a French word. This usually leads to ridiculous, sometimes to painful misunderstandings. For instance:

Donnez moi un plat de poisson
[Give me a dish of fish]

will puzzle somewhat a French waiter if you give to "ss" the sound of a soft "s," and pronounce the last word **po-ah-zon** [poison].

Again in:

Il est couché sur un coussin
[He is reclining upon a cushion]

you must be careful to pronounce the last word **couss-in**, and **NOT** **cou-zin**, which would make you say:

"He is reclining upon a **cousin**."

and so forth.

Remark.—Notice the difference between

frison [curl]
rose [rose]
embraser [to set on fire]
poison [poison]
case [case]
Lise 'Lise, a first name]
cousin [cousin]
ruse [ruse]
base [base]
baiser [to kiss]
d'osier [made of willow]
ils ont [they have]

and **frisson** [shiver]
rosée [old nag]
embrasser [to embrace]
poisson [fish]
casse [breakage]
lisse [smooth]
coussin [cushion]
russe [Russian]
basse [low-(feminine)]
baisser [to lower]
dossier [back of a chair]
ils sont [they are]

DIFFICULTY NO. 2

Numbers: **cinq, six, sept, huit, neuf, dix.**

RULE.—I. At the end of a sentence [or before a vowel] **PRONOUNCE the last letter.**

II. In the body of a sentence, before a consonant **the last letter is SILENT.**

Examples:

I. J'ai rencontré cinq élèves [cink]; ils sont cinq [cink].

II. J'ai rencontré cinq voitures [cin].

EXCEPTION: dix sept, dix huit, dix neuf.
[diz-set, diz-huit, diz-neuf]

DIFFICULTY NO. 3]

et, est.

RULE.—The "t" is always silent in et [and], as a contrast to **est** [is].

Examples:

L'homme spirituel est agréable en société.
Cet homme passe pour spirituel et agréable.

DIFFICULTY NO. 4

plus.

RULE.—At the end of a sentence:

"s" is SILENT if **plus** means: **no more.**

"s" is PRONOUNCED if **plus** means: **more.**

Examples:

Vous voulez des cigares? Je n'en ai plus [plu]
Je n'ai qu'un cigare: donnez m'en plus [pluss]

DIFFICULTY NO. 5.

tous, tout.

RULE.—At the end of a sentence, the "t" of **tout** is SILENT as a contrast to **tous**, the "s" of which is PRONOUNCED.

Example:

Je les ai tous; c'est tout.
[touss] [tou]

DIFFICULTY NO. 6

The ending **ient**.

Few endings in French are more misused than this particular one. Students will avoid many mistakes by keeping in mind that "**ent**" is **SILENT** in verbs, as **ending of the third person plural**.

Examples:

Ils portent [por-te]
Ils copient [co-pi]
Ils avaient [a-vé]

Otherwise, give "**ient**"

- 1st. The French sound I-IN, in verbs.
- 2d. The French sound I-AN in nouns.

Examples:

- 1st. **Il revient** [re-vi-in] he comes back.
- 2d. **inconvenient** [in-con-vé-ni-an] inconvenience.

Notice that the same ending has, therefore, three different sounds in the following sentence:

Il convient qu'ils obvient à cet inconvenient.

i-in	i	i-an
[verb singular]	[verb plural]	[noun]

It is proper that they (should) obviate to this difficulty.

This is a rather striking illustration of the intricacies of French pronunciation.

SOME PRACTICAL ADVICE ABOUT PRONUNCIATION

I. Diphthong **ai, ais**.

It has become customary in France, and especially in Paris, to give to this diphthong the sound of "**é**" (close). For instance: **j'étais** (I was) is pronounced like **été** (been). Yet, as the French Academy and the Comedie Française—the two great authorities in matter of pronunciation—give still the broad sound to **ai** and **ais**, it is advisable to follow their example, without affectation.

Therefore pronounce:

j'avais	[j'avè]
j'étais	[j'ètè]
ils avaient	[ils avè]
ils étaient	[ils ètè]
épais	[épè]
mais	[mè] etc.

II. Mistakes arising from careless reading.

There is no excuse, indeed, for the following mistakes; however, they have become so common that they must be put down on our list of "stumbling blocks."

Do not read

aimant [magnet]	for	amant [lover]
alluminette [?]	"	allumette [match]
âme [soul]	"	âne [donkey]
âne [donkey]	"	an [year]
amiable [amicable]	"	aimable [amiable]
bagne [convicts' prison]	"	bague [ring]
billiard	"	billard
brilliant	"	brillant
cassé [broken]	"	caché [hidden]
cheveux [hair]	"	chevaux [horses]
cochon [pig]	"	cocher [coachman]
cuisine [kitchen]	"	cousine [cousin] fem.
dette [debt]	"	datte [date] fruit
dessus [above]	"	dessous [below]
enfant [child]	"	enfin [at last]
exprès [on purpose]	"	express [express]
faim [hunger]	"	femme [woman]
fil [thread]	"	fil[s] [son]
fil[s] [son]	"	filie [daughter]
flâner [to loiter]	"	plâner [to soar]
fou [mad]	"	feu [fire]
gril [gridiron]	"	grille [railing]
humour [wit]	"	humeur [temper]
jaune [yellow]	"	jeune [young]
maçon [mason]	"	Mâcon [name of a French city]
manège [riding school]	"	ménage [household]
masse [mass]	"	messe [church mass]
ongle [nail]	"	oncle [uncle]
pain [bread]	"	peine [trouble]
plus [more]	"	pluie [rain]
pour [for]	"	peur [fear]
poutre [beam]	"	poudre [powder]
quatre [four]	"	quart [quart] pron: ca*
repos [rest]	"	repas [meal]
sage [wise]	"	cage [cage]
saluter [?]	"	saluer [to salute]
soif [thirst]	"	soir [evening]
souffler [to blow]	"	siffler [to whistle]
superintendant	"	surintendant [superintendent]
un [one, a]	"	on [one (pronoun)]
vielle [hurdy-gurdy]	"	vieille [old] fem.

Do not pronounce

bourgeois	for bourgeois [bour-joie]*
conducuteur	“ conducteur [con-duc-teur]
culière	“ cuiller [cu-y-err]
ditelle	“ détail [dé-ta-i]
Diou	“ Dieu [di-yeu]
doil	“ deuil [deu-i]
ékioupedge	“ équipage [é-ki-page]
iouniform	“ uniforme [u-ni-form]
montaigne	“ montagne [mon-ta-ni-eu]
oil	“ œil [eu-i]
ouagon	“ wagon [va-gon]
quaw	“ quoi [k'wa]
quiou	“ queue [que]
rispecte	“ respect [ress-pec]
simpel	“ simple [sim-ple]
sossaiété	“ société [so-cié-té]†

Nota.—We hardly need to tell the reader that we do not altogether rely upon the figurative sounds given above between brackets. Our object is chiefly to call his attention to the errors often made in the pronunciation of these words.

Remember that the only way to get a correct idea of the pronunciation of a difficult foreign word is to cause an educated native to pronounce it for you.

III. Miscellaneous.

Mistakes and misunderstandings which arise from a wrong accentuation.

(Broad sounds for close sounds and vice versa.)

Do not say

J'ai suivi la ch^âsse [I followed the shrine] for: J'ai suivi la ch^{as}se [the hunt]

J'ai vu la c^{ôte} de la Bourse [I saw the rib of the Exchange] for: la c^{ote} [the quotations]

Le chien a donn^é la p^{âte} [the dog held out his paste] for: la p^{atte} [the paw]

Les Troi^s Grasses [the Three Fat Girls] for: les Troi^s Gr^âces [the Three Graces]

Ce m^âtin [this mastiff] for: Ce m^atin [this morning]

Le p^êcheur a pris une carpe [the sinner caught a carp] for: le p^êcheur [the fisherman]

Cet arb^re croi^t rapidement [this tree believes quickly] for: croi^{ît} [grows]

J'ai fini ma tach^é [I have ended my stain] for: ma tâch^e [my task]

(*) French sounds.

(†) It is a common mistake to give the nasal sound to in before a vowel or a mute h: in that case, i keeps its original sound and n forms a syllable with the following vowel; i-nadmissible.

Both sounds of in are found in: inintelligible.
i-nintelligible.

La pomme de la main [the apple of the hand] for: **la paume** [the palm]
Le sol pousse dans les lieux humides [the ground grows in damp places]
 for. **le saule** [willow]

Je n'aime pas les jeunes [I do not like young people] for: **les jeûnes**
 [fast days]

Rendre lame [to give up one's blade] for: **l'âme** [one's soul]

acre [acre]	for	âcre [acid]
fosse [ditch]	"	fausse [false, fem.]
la [the, fem.]	"	là [there]
malle [trunk]	"	mâle [male]
mètre [meter]	"	maître [master]
molle [soft, fem.]	"	môle [mole, pier]
mur [wall]	"	mûr [ripe]
pale [paddle wheel]	"	pâle [pale]
sur [on]	"	sûr [sure]
hotte [basket, hamper]	"	hôte [host]

The following anecdote illustrates very well the results of a bad French pronunciation.

Some time ago a Brooklyn girl, anxious to show to some friends her proficiency in French, took up one of the latest novels from Paris, and, choosing a paragraph at random, read what purported to be:

"Le JEUNE PÊCHEUR, étendu sous le SAULE, appelait le MATIN de tous ses VŒUX, car il lui tardait de reprendre sa TÂCHE."—[the young fisherman, lying down under the willow tree, was wishing eagerly (calling with all his wishes) for the return of the morning, for he longed to take up his task again.]

But, to her great confusion, her reading brought forth a tremendous peal of laughter, for she had said:

"Le JAUNE PÉCHEUR, étendu sous le SOL, appelait le MÂTIN, de tous ses VEAUX, car il lui tardait de reprendre sa TACHE," which means: the yellow sinner, lying down under the ground, called the mastiff with all his calves, for he longed to take up his stain again. . . .

After the excitement had subsided, the obstinate young lady, determined to make up for her previous blunder, opened the book again and read:

"Elle BAISA la main de la sœur: LISE, s'écria-t-elle, vous êtes une ROSE!"—[She kissed the hand of her sister: Lise, she exclaimed, you are a rose!]

This time the audience nearly fainted, for the unfortunate reader had made the author say:

"Elle BAISSA la main de la sœur: LISSE, s'écria-t-elle, vous êtes une ROSSE!"—[she pulled down her sister's hand: Smooth one, she exclaimed, you are an old nag!]

MISPRONUNCIATION

OF SOME PROPER NAMES IN FRENCH

IT is hardly necessary to say that anybody addicted to the study of French has no excuse for mispronouncing such names as **Paris**, **Marseille**, **Versailles** and so forth. Yet these nouns are constantly murdered by people who pride themselves upon being conversant with French classics—people who can translate “*Les Misérables*” or “*Notre Dame*,” but call the author **Victoh-Iougo**!

Paris	Never sound the final “s.”
Lyon	There is no reason for making it Lyons and pronouncing la-i-onn-ze [Engl.: li-nnce], since the names of other French cities keep in English their original spelling. Give the word the French sound: li-on .
Marseille	is not Mâr-sel , but mar-cé-i [Engl.: marr-say-ee].
Versailles	Few foreigners pronounce the word correctly. They say generally: veur-sail . The correct sound is ver-sa-i [Engl.: verrs-I].
Orléans	Notice the accent and do not give to “ lé ” the English sound of “ lee .” Pronounce the last syllable like the French word an (year).
Fontainebleau	Often pronounced fountain-blue . You must say: fontaine-blô .
Boulogne	Do not dwell on the middle syllable. The “o” is very short.
Calais	Pronounce: kah-lè .
Genève	Avoid to call it Geneva and especially to pronounce it: djenn-ee-vah , which often causes this city to be mistaken for Genoa (djenn-o-ah), the Italian seaport.
Savoie	Do not pronounce it: sa-vo-ee , but sahv’wa [Engl.]
Saint Cloud	“Saint,” without sounding the “t.” “Cloud”: cloo .
Saint Denis	“Denis” with the first syllable very short: d’ni [Engl.: d’nee].

- Vevey** A Swiss resort. Pronounce: **ve-vè** [the first "e" like the "u" of nut].
- Buttes Chaumont** A park in Paris. Often mispronounced: **boutte-chomount**. The true pronunciation is **but-chô-mon** [French "u."]
- Champs-Élysées** Some people find it difficult to pronounce the last word. The correct sound is **é-li-zé**.
- Palais Royal** The last word is **not: ro-ial**, but **roi-ial** [Engl.: **r'wa-ial**], for the "y" stands for two "i."
- Saint Eustache** A church in Paris. **Eu** (like the "u" of murder) stash.
- La Madeleine** Not: **ma-de-linne**, but **mad-laine**.
- Bastille** Is **not bass-til**. The last syllables have the liquid sound, like in "**fil**le," "**bil**le," and so forth.
- Porte Maillot** [at Paris] Wrongly pronounced **ma-liot** by many foreigners. The correct sound is: **ma-i-o** [Engl.: **my-oh**].
- Charlemagne** This king is much ill-used in English, as far as pronunciation is concerned. He is generally called either: **tshale-maine**, or **tsha-li-mange**. You get an idea of the correct sound by pronouncing the following:
sharr
le—like the French article
ma—like the French possessive
ni—like the French negative
e—scarcely heard.
- Millet** Notwithstanding the rules on liquid sounds, the name of this artist must be pronounced: **mi-let** [Engl.: **me-lay**].
- Louis XIV.** One should come to some understanding about the pronunciation of these two words. Many people say "Louis the Fourteenth," with Louis like in French: **lou-i** [Engl.: **loo-ee**], while others pronounce "Louis Quatorze," sounding Louis like in English.
- Mme. de Maintenon** Often pronounced like the French word for "now" (**maintenant**). This is wrong, for "**an**" and "**on**" have by no means the same sound.
- Marie-Antoinette** Avoid the sound of the English "**th**" in Antoinette and sound clearly the "**oi**" (**wa**).
- Robespierre** Do not give to the ending the sound of the English word "**pier**." Pronounce **Ro-bess-pi-err** (with "**pi**" like in "pigeon.")
- Richelieu** Is **not rich-liou**, but [Engl.] **rish-lee-eu** ["eu" having the sound of "**u**" in murder."]

Mme. de Sévigné	is not <i>se-vig-ne</i> but <i>sé-vi-ni-é</i> . Observe the accents.
Molière	Sometimes wrongly pronounced: <i>mo-year</i> . The correct sound is: <i>mo-li-air</i> [Engl.: <i>mo-lee-air</i> .]
Mme. de Staël	Is pronounced <i>stal</i> . [French "a"]
Montaigne	The name of this great philosopher is pronounced <i>montagne</i> .
Montmorency	Not <i>mount-mo-rin-say</i> , but <i>mon-mo-ren-ci</i> .
Rochefoucauld	[Engl.] <i>rosh-foo-co</i> .
St. Bernard	Usually pronounced in English: <i>beur-nad</i> . Say [Engl.] <i>bear-narr</i> .
Abailard	[Engl.] <i>ah-bay-larr</i> .
Héloïse	[Engl.] <i>a-lo-iz</i> , "a" like in "baker."
Jeanne d'Arc	[Engl.] <i>j'ann d'ark</i> , "ann" with a stress on the "a." Never put the "d" portion of the "j" like in English.
St. Saëns	Usually pronounced <i>sens</i> (nasal <i>en</i> = somewhat like "an" of "want." However, according to the composer himself, the pronunciation should be <i>sah-in-ce</i> (<i>in</i> nasal = like "en" of "went"; final "e" silent).
Alexandre Dumas	Not Alexander, but <i>ah-leks-an-dr</i> , "an" with the nasal sound.
Maréchal Niel	A well-known French general officer under Napoleon the Third. This noun is better known in America and in England as the name of a species of rose. Often mispronounced: <i>marshal neel</i> . Pronounce: <i>mah-ray-shal Nee-ell</i> . (<i>duc de</i>). A famous statesman. Pronounce: <i>breuil</i> (<i>br-oeil</i>).
Champagne	(<i>Ph. de</i>). Painter. Pronounce: <i>champagne</i> .
Retz	(<i>cardinal de</i>). A prelate famous during the Fronde. Pronounce: <i>ress</i> .

EXERCISES

PART I.

WORDS SIMILAR IN BOTH LANGUAGES, WITH A DIFFERENT MEANING

SECTION A

I

Dear friend:

Since you are going to town, I wish you would rent for me a **large glass cabinet** for my **bric à brac**, and also a bureau with about twenty **pigeonholes** for my **private study**. Have them sent here as soon as possible, through Mr. Durand, who is a **relative** of mine. Also please call at Duval's **store** and buy me:

a **dull brass chandelier** for the hall;
 three china **candlesticks**;
 three dozen **lemons**;
 six **citrons**; five pounds of **lard**;
 three pounds of **bacon**;
 five pounds of **raisins**;
 one basket of **grapes**;
 a box of **pins**;
 a bottle of white **pine syrup**;
 a **file**;
 two **blinds** for the dining-room;
 a **mat** for the doorway;
 a piece of blue **gauze**; and some **tape**.

I think this is about all I need for the present.

(Continued No. 2.)

2

I shall send you to-morrow at the **depot** by one of my **servants**, a little bundle containing several things which I want you to take to the hardware **store**: my **opera glass**, which is out of order; also my hunting-knife, the **blade** of which is broken. You will find herewith enclosed on a separate note a few particulars about the dimensions of the **cabinet**, **blinds**, etc. For the rest, as I have the greatest **confidence** in your buying ability, I rely entirely upon you.

I hope this will not trouble you too much. I would have sent to town old Pierre, the coachman, to do the shopping, for he had to

purchase a pair of **reins** for the horses; but he is busy nursing the bay **mare**, which has a kind of **itch**; besides, he suffers from a **spleen** disease, also from **kidney** trouble, and I do not want him to go out while this **gale** is blowing. He is not a **sensible** fellow and does not take good care of himself; I am afraid that, at the **rate** he goes, he will rapidly grow worse. I know you are interested in him, that is why I am giving you all these details.

Hoping you will have a pleasant journey, I remain

Yours cordially,

SECTION B

3

Did you see this **advertisement** in the "Morning Brawler?"—No. What is it about?—About the sale of Mr. John's **factory**.—Was it a large concern?—Not at all. The building itself is a mere wooden **shanty**, near the Marine **Barracks**.—Mr. John is a **bad character**, is he not?—By no means. He is a very honest man, very **gay** at times, and always **cheerful**. But when he was young, he had a **bad temper**, that is all.—When have you met him?—At the Durands', last winter; he was my **partner** at whist. Then I went to Europe with him on the same steamer, in fact in the same **stateroom**.—Is he a good conversationalist?—No. He is not well read in modern literature, for when I asked him what was his opinion of the "Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," he answered he had never tried it, although he had used many kinds of breakfast food!—

(Continued No. 4.)

4

Who is Mr. John's first **clerk**?—Mr. Paul.—I thought Paul was a **clerk in some attorney's office**.—He was in my **partner's** special office. But we had some difficulties about a **patent**, and he resigned.—Well, now I think of it, how much had you to pay for that **license** of mine?—Ninety francs. In France a tradesman's **license** is proportional to the **rent** of the building.—Yes, I know. Well, it is the last time I have to pay for it; I will soon retire from business, and live on my **income**.—I congratulate you. What will you do then?—Get a **pretty** cottage, a carriage, and have a "**jolly**" time.—I do not doubt you will keep many servants; you are so **fastidious**!—I shall get a good housekeeper; it is so **tiresome** to attend to the many details of housekeeping.—I hope your cook will be more experienced than mine; when I asked Bridget the other day if the butcher had sent the lobsters: "Yes, sir," said she. "But I sent them back; they were not ripe!"

SECTIONS A AND B

5

Arthur, this cook is impossible.—I think that you have a **prejudice** against colored **servants**.—You know very well I have no race **prejudice**.—Well, you would not **do any harm** to the negro race, but you

hate black people individually.—That cook is worse than the others.—Every cook was, since we began housekeeping. What is the trouble now?—Well, I told her: “There is three months’ dust in the kitchen.” She placidly retorted: “That is not my fault, madam. I have been here only a fortnight!”—Does that upset you? I would not mind such trifles. You are not a **sensible** woman. You had better attend to me. I am hungry and thirsty.—Will you have a mutton **chop** and some claret?—No. I prefer a **glass of beer** and some cheese. I can get that myself in the kitchen, since you are so **sensitive** that you cannot bear the sight of that servant.

(Continued No. 6.)

6

Well, Arthur, did you get that **glass of beer**?—No. I feel no more thirsty. When I entered the kitchen I saw a **dirty** negro, about one hundred years old, wrapped up in a **blanket**; he was eating a kind of **stewed veal** out of a **glass**, and looked at himself in a broken **mirror**. The smell and the sight were too much for me and . . . here I am.—Well, I would not mind such a **trivial** affair, if I were a man. Let me show you this beautiful **song**. I got the **score** to-day at Duval’s.—What is it called?—“By moonlight.”—Oh, I do not want to hear it. It is dreadfully **commonplace**.—I do not think you know it.—Maybe not, but the very title is vulgar.—Well, what about this.—What is it?—The latest **novel**.—What is it about?—A man of **ignoble** extraction who, by dint of energy and enterprise, grows to be a millionaire and a baronet.—How did he make his money?—Selling umbrellas.—That is simply **disgusting**! Now, if he had been in the cane business, like myself, I could have understood. I cannot see anything in an umbrella.—Well, I do. As a weather forecast.—How is that?—If you take your umbrella along, in the morning, when the weather is threatening, it is a sure sign that it will soon clear off.

PART II.

WRONG FRENCH EXPRESSIONS

7

[From a man to a woman.]

Dear Friend:

I heard with much sorrow that you were discouraged, and ready to give up your studies. You were right to **apply** to me and I am quite willing to help you. I have **met with** an accident the other day, but although I have **sprained my wrist**, I am able to use my tongue, if not my hand. **Let me know** if you will be at home to-morrow, and, if agreeable to you, I shall **come for you early in the morning**. In case you should not be free to-morrow, I can come **on Friday**; not before, for **on Wednesday** I have to **pay a visit** to an old friend of mine; and **on Thursday** I shall take my sister to a **performance** which will **take place** at Versailles. Now, when I **think of it**, can you not **join us** that day? Sister would be delighted to **call for you** on her way to the depot.

Hoping to see you soon, I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

8

Dear Jules:

I am very **angry at you!** How is it that you cannot **find the way** to leave Paris **for a few days**? I hoped you would **visit** me here **before going** to England; I **expected** to have a good time with you. Father wanted to **introduce** you to a friend of his, Mr. Black, who **plays chess** as well as you do; he **plays on the violin**, too, **tolerably well**; and is very **enthusiastic** about music. Mr. Black's wife **plays on the banjo** **indifferently** and sings **too much** for our comfort; but she is an interesting talker, and you would have enjoyed her conversation **very much**.

I have **heard from** Pierré. In a few days he will **marry** his former tutor's daughter, that **black-eyed girl** you saw at Mr. Blank's house. This young lady is **worth 500,000 francs** and has some **expectations**. In your letter you inquired about my **race horses**. Well, when I was at the seashore **last summer**, I sold them to the **proprietor of the hotel**—a lucky fellow who had **saved** much money since he is in the business.

That is all I have to say for the present. **Remember me*** to your brother **when you see** him and believe me,

Your friend,

(*) See Mistakes in Letter Writing, page 56.

[Rewrite this in French after correcting the mistakes.]

Paris, quatrième de juin 1902.

Cher monsieur:

Votre lettre est justement arrivée. Cela me donne très beaucoup de plaisir d'entendre que vous avez eu une bonne journée sur mer. J'ai lu dans le papier du dimanche que le temps est plus et plus mauvais chaque jour sur l'Océan et je craignais que votre bateau ne fût tard. Comment aimez vous l'Amérique? Combien longtemps attendez vous de passer là? Quand vous êtes à Chicago, allez et voyez Mr. Bernard, dont vous avez l'adresse et qui était un de mes pupilles. Il était né à Chicago et sait la ville très bien. Vous n'avez qu'à envoyer pour lui, dès votre arrivée. Il sera enchanté de prendre une promenade avec vous.

Quand à votre affaire, je l'ai terminée. J'ai trouvé un mécanicien pour faire le travail, et on le paiera par l'heure. Vous trouverez dans cette lettre un reçu pour le prix de la fourniture de salon et du fourneau placé dans la cave: la balance de votre compte vous sera d'ailleurs envoyée le mois prochain. Mais j'ai eu du trouble avec la mademoiselle Dubois; je crois qu'elle est une fraude et que je serai obligé de m'appliquer au justice de paix.

Mais il est minuit à ma montre, et j'ai une peine dans la tête: je m'arrête donc et vous prie de croire à mes meilleures amitiés.

[There are thirty mistakes to be found in this exercise.]

PART III.

FRENCH IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS

[To translate into English orally or in writing.]

IO

Comment se fait-il que vous discutiez avec tant d'animation? Cela n'est pas votre habitude.—**Il s'agit de savoir pourquoi Mr. Durand en veut à Mr. Dubois. A quoi cela tient-il?** Nous ne sommes pas d'accord là dessus.—**Cela tient**, je crois, à ce que Mr. Dubois **donne** maintenant **dans** le spiritisme. **J'étais en train de lire** un article qu'il a publié sur ce sujet dans le "Temps."—**Lui en voulez-vous**, vous-même, pour cela?—Moi? Non certes. **Qu'est-ce que cela me fait?** Je me soucie peu de ce que mon prochain fait ou pense. J'ai assez de mes propres affaires.—**Vous me faites l'effet d'un philosophe très pratique.**—Mais c'est précisément la philosophie qui nous donne le sens pratique.—Et aussi l'indifférence!—Oui, l'indifférence, quelquefois. Quant à moi, si mon voisin **donne** dans une fantaisie qui ne **gêne** personne, **qu'il s'en donne** tant qu'il veut, cela ne m'importe pas.—Très bien, monsieur le philosophe, **je ferai de mon mieux** pour vous imiter.

(Continued No. 11.)

II

Il ne s'en faut pas de beaucoup que je ne vous demande des leçons de sens pratique, comme vous l'appellez. Je pourrais former une classe avec ces messieurs, et nous travaillerions **à qui mieux mieux** pour oublier nos maux, et surtout ceux de nos voisins. Mais je crains d'être un peu âgé pour **me mettre à** étudier une science si nouvelle.—**Qu'à cela ne tienne!** Mettez vous-y et vous verrez comme cela est facile. Vous, apprendrez vite **à vous jouer des difficultés** de la logique.—Et de celles de la morale?—**Vous avez beau vous moquer de moi:** je sais ce que je dis. Venez me voir tantôt tous ensemble et nous commencerons nos discussions.—**Nous ne vous gênerons pas?** Mais, j'y pense, un grand homme comme vous ne peut **être gêné** par une chose aussi vulgaire qu'un dérangement! Messieurs, c'est entendu: nous irons cette après midi chez lui. **Vous ne sauriez être trop ponctuels**, car ce philosophe **n'aurait qu'à s'impatienter:** tout le bénéfice de ses études serait ainsi perdu.

PART IV.

ENGLISH EXPRESSIONS

[To translate into French orally or in writing.]

12

You have been long dressing; I had been told that you were very quick, but **we have been married** three months, and I never saw you yet ready in time.—**I wish I could** be as quick and nimble as you are. However, **I do not like you to think** that I am always so late at meals. To-day I was delayed down town. **I have not been able** to come back here before 5:30.—**Well, you ought to have started** earlier this morning.—**I did start early.** The trouble is that I took the **wrong car**, and when I reached Main Street, I **rang at the wrong house.** **After I had found** out where my friend, Miss So-and-So, lives, I went there just to learn that she had left for Europe **a week ago yesterday.** Then **I went shopping**, for I had to buy so many things.

(Continued No. 13.)

13

I suppose you **enjoy shopping.**—**I enjoy the sight** of the rush and hustle in the big stores. Well, when I asked what **they charged** for the kind of smoking-jacket you want, they **charged me** one hundred francs. Of course I thought it was too dear.—Thank you. Proceed.—But I bought a lovely muff for myself.—How much?—Oh, I do not know. I had it sent to your office, **C. O. D.**—Indeed! **I wonder why** you bought a muff when you have already four?—**I wonder at** your impudence! I had none to match the dress you promised me for my birthday.—Oh, I see. Go on.—**It is of no avail.** It does not interest you in the least.—Yes, it does; financially.—**Later, as it looked like snow,** I went to see Mrs. Durand **to get an umbrella,** but **I could not get her** to lend me one.

(Continued No. 14.)

14

I said to her: **would you mind** lending me that umbrella of yours **with the gilded handle;** but she said: **I would not mind** lending you anything else; you know, loaned umbrellas, like loaned books, often get lost, always get spoiled.—**You ought to have** reminded her of the three hundred francs I lent to her husband **five years ago last spring.** I fear they will get lost, too!—Indeed, **you do not know how to manage.** **You ought to . . .** do something anyway. Oh, if I were a man, **I would attend to** that at once. Three hundred francs, what a beautiful hat **I could get** for that money!—**I wish you to understand** that I know my business. How did you part with Mrs. Durand?—Well, she did not lend me anything, but finally borrowed five francs from me to pay the gas bill. I forgot it was all the money I had; and **after I had taken the car,** I perceived that I had not my car-fare. **I had to alight and to walk back home.**

PART VI.

ADJECTIVES WITH TWO MEANINGS

15

Is Maubeuge an **important business centre**?—No; it is only a small **fortified city**. I do not know any **big merchant** there.—Do you not know Mr. Dupont?—Yes; a very **stout** and very tall merchant who deals in wines and liquors. **Last year**, it was the **last year** of my stay at college in Maubeuge, I met him. He is a **good fellow**, but he is not a **brave man**, for I saw him flee before a cow, and jump over a **deep ditch**, ten feet wide.—Come, now! This is a **false story**. He could never jump in his life.—I assure you, it is a **true story**. My **deep regard** for you prevents me from telling you falsehoods.—Anyway, Dupont is a very **nice man**.—Yes, he is. He says that he is a **nobleman** by birth. As for me, I think he **looks ill-bred**.

(Continued No. 16.)

16

He may **look vulgar**; but you cannot say that he has a **vicious look**.—How many brothers has he?—Two. One is a **penniless musician**, the other a **writer without talent**.—I remember now that the latter is a **lachrymose poet**.—An **indifferent poet**, indeed. I have just read some **ill-made verses** he had written to Mme. Dubois; they are **ill-natured verses**, too.—As for the musician, he **looks deceitful**.—Yes; he resembles slightly Mr. Pierre, our old teacher, who was a **very silly fellow**.—Mr. Pierre was a **kind man**.—A **simpleton**, proud and tiresome.—I do not agree with you. He was **kindness itself**.—Well, he used to show the **same kindness** to animals, **honorable people** and **regular blackguards**.—You cannot deny that he had been once a **famous professor**.—An **excellent teacher**, indeed, who never was able to secure a good situation in this country. He had a **vulgar appearance**, too, although he pretended that his father was a **nobleman**.—I used to know his father: a **nice man**, obliging and generous.—I knew him, too; a **ladies' man**, but no **gentleman**, nor a **nobleman**, either!—Well, I see that you are rather ill-natured to-day. What is the matter?—I had a **poor dinner** at my aunt's.—Was it a **meal without meat**?—Of course, and it lasted two **tedious hours**, in "**tête à tête**."—I understand your feelings. But as I do not want you to slander any more to-day, we had better bring this conversation to a close.

KEY TO THE EXERCISES

I

Cher ami:

Puisque vous allez en ville, je désire que vous louiez pour moi **une grande vitrine** pour mes **bibelots** et aussi un bureau avec environ vingt **cases** pour mon **cabinet**. Faites les envoyer ici aussitôt que possible, par l'intermédiaire de Mr. Durand qui est un de mes **parents**. Aussi, s'il vous plaît, passez au **magasin** de Duval et achetez moi:

un **lustre** de bronze **mat** pour le vestibule;
trois **chandeliers** de porcelaine;
trois douzaines de **citrons**;
six **cédrats**; cinq livres de **saindoux**;
trois livres de **lard**;
cinq livres de **raisins secs**;
un panier de **raisins**;
une boîte d'**épingles**;
une bouteille de sirop de **pin blanc**; une **lime**;
deux **stores** pour la salle à manger;
une **natte** pour la porte d'entrée;
un morceau de **gaze** bleue et du **galon**;

Je pense que c'est à peu près tout ce dont j'ai besoin pour le moment.

2

Je vous enverrai demain à la **gare** par un de mes **domestiques**, un petit paquet contenant plusieurs choses que je désire que vous portiez au **magasin** de quincaillerie; ma **lorgnette** qui est dérangée; aussi mon couteau de chasse, dont la **lame** est cassée. Vous trouverez ci-inclus, sur une note séparée, quelques détails sur les dimensions de la **vitrine**, des **stores**, etc. Pour le reste, comme j'ai la plus grande **confiance** dans votre talent d'acheteur, je m'en rapporte entièrement à vous.

J'espère que ceci ne vous dérangera pas trop. J'aurais envoyé en ville le vieux Pierre, le cocher, pour faire les emplettes, car il avait à acheter une paire de **rènes** pour les chevaux; mais il est occupé à soigner la **jument** baie qui a une sorte de **gale**; d'ailleurs il souffre d'une maladie de **foie**, aussi d'un mal de **reins**; et je ne veux pas qu'il sorte tant que souffle cette **tempête**. Ce n'est pas un garçon **sensé** et il ne prend pas soin de lui même; j'ai peur qu'au **train** dont il va, son état n'empire rapidement. Je sais que vous lui portez de l'intérêt, c'est pourquoi je vous donne tous ces détails.

Espérant que vous aurez un agréable voyage, je reste votre très dévoué.

3

Avez vous vu cette **annonce** dans le "Braillard du Matin?"—Non. De quoi s'agit-il?—De la vente de la **manufacture** de Mr. Jean.—Était-ce un établissement considérable?—Pas du tout. Le bâtiment lui-même est une simple **baraque**, près des **casernes** de la Marine.—Mr. Jean a une **mauvaise réputation**, n'est-ce pas?—Pas le moins du monde. C'est un très honnête homme, **très bon vivant** par moments, et toujours **gai**. Mais, quand il était jeune, il avait **mauvais caractère**, c'est tout.—Quand l'avez-vous rencontré?—Chez les Durand, l'hiver dernier; il était mon **partenaire** au whist. Puis je suis allé en Europe avec lui sur le même bateau, en fait dans la même **cabine**.—Est-ce un causeur agréable?—Non. Il n'est pas au courant de la littérature moderne, car lorsque je lui ai demandé quelle était son opinion sur "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table," il m'a répondu qu'il n'avait jamais essayé cela, quoiqu'il eût employé bien des espèces de "breakfast food!"

4

Qui est le premier **commis** de Mr. Jean?—Mr. Paul.—Je pensais que Paul était **clerc de notaire**.—Il était dans le bureau privé de mon **associé**. Mais nous avons eu des différends au sujet d'un **brevêt d'invention** et il a résilié ses fonctions.—Eh bien, quand j'y pense, combien avez vous eu à payer pour ma **patente**?—Quatre vingt dix francs. En France, la **patente** d'un marchand est proportionnelle au **loyer** du bâtiment.—Oui, je le sais. Eh bien, c'est la dernière fois que j'ai à la payer, je me retirerai des affaires bientôt et vivrai de mes **rentes**.—Je vous fais mon compliment. Que ferez-vous alors?—Je me procurerai un **joli** cottage, une voiture et j'aurai **du bon temps** [je passerai une existence très **gaie**].—Je ne doute pas que vous n'ayez plusieurs domestiques; vous êtes si **difficile à plaire**!—Je me procurerai une bonne femme de ménage; c'est si **fastidieux** de s'occuper des petits détails du ménage.—J'espère que votre cuisinière sera plus expérimentée que la mienne; quand j'ai demandé à Brigitte l'autre jour si le boucher avait envoyé les homards: "Oui, monsieur, dit-elle. Mais je les ai renvoyés; ils n'étaient pas mûrs!"

5

Arthur, cette cuisinière est impossible.—Je pense que vous avez un **préjugé** contre les **domestiques** de couleur.—Vous savez très bien que je n'ai pas de **préjugé** de race.—Eh bien, vous ne voudriez pas porter **préjudice** à la race nègre, mais vous haïssez les noirs individuellement.—Cette cuisinière est pire que les autres.—Chaque cuisinière l'a été depuis que nous sommes entrés en ménage. De quoi s'agit il maintenant?—Eh bien, je lui ai dit: "Il y a trois mois de poussière dans la cuisine." Elle m'a répondu tranquillement: "Cela n'est pas ma faute, madame. Il y a seulement quinze jours que je suis ici!"—Est-ce que cela vous bouleverse? Je ne ferais pas attention à de telles bagatelles. Vous n'êtes pas une femme **sensée**. Vous feriez mieux de vous occuper de moi. J'ai faim et soif.—Voulez vous une **côtelette** de mouton et du bordeaux?—Non, je préfère un **verre de bière** et du fromage. Je peux me procurer cela moi même dans la cuisine, puisque vous êtes si **sensible** que vous ne pouvez pas supporter la **vue** de cette domestique.

6

Eh bien, Arthur, avez vous pris ce **verre de bière**?—No. Je n'ai plus soif. Quand je suis entré dans la cuisine, j'ai vu un **sale** nègre, âgé d'environ cent ans, enveloppé dans une **couverture**; il mangeait une espèce de **blanquette** dans un **verre**, et se regardait dans une **glace** cassée. L'odeur et le spectacle ont été trop forts pour moi et . . . me voici.—Eh bien, je ne ferais pas attention à une affaire aussi **insignifiante**, si j'étais un homme. Laissez moi vous montrer cette belle **romance**. Je m'en suis procuré la **partition** aujourd'hui chez Duval.—Comment cela s'appelle-t-il?—"Au Clair de Lune."—Oh, je ne désire pas l'entendre. C'est terriblement **trivial**.—Je ne pense pas que vous la connaissiez.—Peut être que non, mais le titre même est vulgaire.—Eh bien, que dites vous de ceci?—Qu'est-ce que c'est?—Le dernier **roman**.—De quoi traite-t-il?—D'un homme d'**humble** naissance qui, à force d'énergie et d'esprit d'entreprise parvient à être millionnaire et baronet.—Comment a-t-il fait sa fortune?—En vendant des parapluies.—C'est simplement **ignoble**! Par exemple, s'il avait été dans le commerce des cannes, comme moi, j'aurais pu comprendre. Je ne puis rien voir d'intéressant dans un parapluie.—Moi, j'y vois quelque chose, comme présage du temps.—Comment cela?—Si vous prenez votre parapluie avec vous, le matin, quand le temps menace, c'est un signe sûr que le temps va bientôt s'éclaircir.

7

Chère amie:

J'ai **entendu dire**, avec beaucoup de chagrin, que vous étiez découragée et prête à abandonner vos études. Vous avez eu raison de vous adresser à moi, et je suis très disposé à vous aider. Il m'est arrivé un accident l'autre jour; mais quoique je me sois foulé le poignet, je suis capable de me servir de la langue, si non de la main. Faites moi savoir si vous serez chez vous demain; et, si cela vous est agréable, je viendrai vous chercher de bonne heure le matin. Au cas où vous ne seriez pas libre le matin, je puis venir **vendredi**; pas avant, car, mercredi, j'ai à faire une visite à un de mes vieux amis; et **jeudi**, j'emmènerai ma sœur à une **représentation** qui a lieu à Versailles. Maintenant, quand j'y pense, ne pouvez vous pas vous joindre à nous ce jour-là? Ma sœur serait charmée de passer chez vous en allant à la gare.

Espérant vous voir bientôt,

Je reste
votre très respectueusement dévoué.

8

Cher Jules:

Je suis très **fâché** contre vous! Comment se fait-il que vous ne puissiez pas trouver le moyen de quitter Paris pendant quelques jours? J'espérais que vous me feriez une visite ici avant d'aller en Angleterre. Je comptais m'amuser beaucoup avec vous. Mon père désirait vous présenter à un de ses amis, Mr. Black, qui joue aux échecs aussi bien que vous; il joue du violon aussi, passablement; et il est très enthousiaste en fait de musique. La femme de Mr. Black joue du **banjo**

médiocrement et chante **trop** pour notre confort; mais elle cause d'une façon intéressante, et vous auriez joui **beaucoup** de sa conversation.

J'ai **reçu des nouvelles** de Pierre. Dans **quelques jours**, il épousera la fille de son ancien **précepteur**, cette jeune personne **aux yeux noirs** que vous avez vue **chez Mr. Blank**. Cette jeune demoiselle est **riche de 500,000 francs** et a des **espérances**.

Dans votre lettre vous n'avez demandé des nouvelles de mes **chevaux de course**. Eh bien, quand j'étais au bord de la mer l'**été dernier**, je les ai vendus au propriétaire de l'hôtel (or **au maître de l'hôtel**), un heureux gaillard qui **a gagné** beaucoup d'argent depuis qu'il est dans les affaires.

C'est là tout ce que j'ai à dire pour le moment. **Rappelez moi au souvenir** de votre frère **quand vous le verrez**, et croyez moi.

Votre ami.

9

Paris, quatre juin 1902

Cher monsieur:

Votre lettre **vient d'arriver**. Cela me **fait** beaucoup de plaisir **d'apprendre** que vous avez eu un bon **voyage** sur mer. J'ai lu dans le **journal** du dimanche que le temps est de **plus en plus** mauvais chaque jour sur l'Océan; et je craignais que votre bateau ne fût en **retard**. Comment **trouvez-vous** l'Amérique? **Combien de temps** comptez vous passer là?

Quand vous serez à Chicago, **allez voir** Mr. Bernard, dont vous avez l'adresse et qui était un de mes **élèves**. Il est né à Chicago et **connait** la ville très bien. Vous n'avez qu'à **l'envoyer chercher**, dès votre arrivée. Il sera enchanté de **faire une promenade** avec vous.

Quant à votre affaire, je l'ai terminée. J'ai trouvé un **artisan** pour faire le travail; et on le paiera à **l'heure**. Vous trouverez dans cette lettre un reçu pour le prix du **moblier** de salon, et du **calorifère** placé dans la cave: le **solde** de votre compte vous sera d'ailleurs envoyé le mois prochain. Mais j'ai eu des **difficultés** avec **mademoiselle Dubois**; je crois qu'elle est un **imposeur** et que je serai obligé de **m'adresser** au juge de paix.

Mais il est minuit à ma montre et j'ai **mal** à la tête; je m'arrête donc et vous prie de croire à mes meilleures amitiés.

10

How is it that you are discussing with such animation? It is not your custom.—**The question is** to know why Mr. Durand **has a grudge** against Mr. Dubois. **What is the cause of it?** We do not agree on that point.—**That comes**, I believe, from the fact that Mr. Dubois indulges now in spiritualist studies. **I was just reading** a paper which he wrote on that subject in the "Times."—Do you bear him a grudge yourself on that account?—I? No, indeed. **What is that to me?** **I do not care for** what my neighbor does or thinks. I have enough with my own affairs.—In my opinion, you **look like** a very practical philosopher.—Indeed, it is philosophy itself which gives us practical sense.—And also indifference!—Yes, "unconcern," sometimes. As

for me, if my neighbor has a hobby which inconveniences no one, **let him give himself up to it!** That does not concern me.—Very good, Mr. Philosopher. **I shall do my best to imitate you.**

II

I feel very much like asking you to give me lessons in practical sense, as you call it. I could form a class with these gentlemen and we should **strive with each other** in trying to forget our pains, and above all, those of our neighbors. But, I fear, I am a little old to **set myself to study so new a science.**—**Never mind that! Set about it** and you will see how easy it is. You will learn quickly to **overcome the difficulties of logic.**—As well as those of morals?—**It is in vain for you to make fun of me;** I know what I am talking about. Come to see me this afternoon all together and we shall begin our discussion.—Shall we not **inconvenience** you? Now, when I think of it, a great man like you cannot be **inconvenienced** by as vulgar a thing as a disturbance! Gentlemen, it is understood; we shall go this afternoon to his house. **You could not be too punctual,** for **suppose** this philosopher gets impatient; all the benefit of his studies would thus be lost.

12

Vous avez mis du temps à vous habiller; on m'avait dit que vous étiez très leste, mais il y a trois mois que nous sommes mariés, et je ne vous ai encore jamais vue prête à l'heure.—Je voudrais pouvoir être aussi leste et agile que vous. Cependant je n'aime pas que vous pensiez que je suis toujours si en retard pour les repas. Aujourd'hui j'ai été retardée en bas de la ville. Je n'ai pas pu revenir ici avant 5 h. 30.—Eh bien, **vous auriez dû partir plus tôt ce matin.**—**Mais je suis partie de bonne heure. Le malheur est que je me suis trompée de tramway,** et quand j'ai atteint Main Street, **je me suis trompée de porte en sonnant. Après avoir découvert où mon amie, Mme. Une Telle, demeure, je suis allée là juste pour apprendre qu'elle était partie pour l'Europe, il y a eu hier huit jours. Ensuite, j'ai été faire des emplettes,** car j'avais à acheter tant de choses.

13

Je suppose que **vous aimez à faire des emplettes.**—Je **jouis de la presse et du mouvement dans les grands magasins.** Donc, quand j'ai demandé ce qu'on **prenait** pour l'espèce de coin de feu que vous désirez, on m'a **demandé cent francs.** Bien entendu, j'ai pensé que c'était trop cher.—Merci. Continuez.—**Mais je me suis acheté un ravissant manchon.**—Combien coûte-t-il?—Oh! je n'en sais rien. Je l'ai fait envoyer à votre bureau, **payable à domicile.**—Vraiment! **Je me demande pourquoi** vous avez acheté un manchon quand vous en avez déjà quatre?—**Je m'étonne de votre impudence!** Je n'en avais pas pour assortir la robe que vous m'avez promise pour mon jour de naissance.—Oh, je vois. Continuez.—**Cela ne sert à rien. Cela ne vous intéresse en aucune façon.**—Si, cela m'intéresse: financièrement.—Plus tard, **comme on aurait dit qu'il allait neiger,** je suis allée voir Mme. Durand pour **me procurer un parapluie,** mais je **n'ai pu l'amener à m'en prêter un.**

14

Je lui ai dit: **voudriez vous bien me prêter votre parapluie au manche doré**; mais elle dit: **je vous prêterais volontiers n'importe quelle autre chose**: vous savez, les parapluies prêtés, comme les livres prêtés, "souvent se perdent et toujours s'abiment."—**Vous auriez dû lui rappeler les trois cents francs que j'ai prêtés à son mari il y a eu cinq ans au printemps dernier**: j'ai peur qu'ils ne se perdent aussi!—**Veritablement vous ne savez pas vous arranger** Vous devriez . . . faire quelque chose en tout cas. Oh, si j'étais un homme, je m'occuperais de cela tout de suite. Trois cents francs, quel beau chapeau je pourrais acheter pour cet argent!—**Je désire que vous compreniez que je connais mon affaire** Comment avez vous quitté Mme. Durard?—Eh bien, elle ne m'a rien prêté, mais finalement elle m'a emprunté cinq francs pour payer la note du gaz. J'ai oublié que c'était tout l'argent que j'avais sur moi; et, **après avoir pris le tramway**, je me suis aperçue que je n'avais pas de quoi payer ma place. **J'ai dû descendre et rentrer à pied à la maison.**

15

Est-ce que Maubeuge est une importante **place de commerce**?—Non, c'est seulement une petite **place forte**; je n'y connais aucun **fort marchand**.—Ne connaissez vous pas Mr. Dupont?—Si, un **marchand très fort et très grand** qui est dans les vins et liqueurs. **L'année dernière**, c'était la **dernière année** de mon séjour au collège à Maubeuge, je l'ai rencontré. C'est un **brave garçon**, mais ce n'est pas un **homme brave**, car je l'ai vu fuir devant une vache et sauter un **fossé profond**, de dix pieds de large.—Allons donc! C'est là une **vraie histoire**. Il n'a jamais pu sauter dans sa vie.—Je vous assure, c'est une **histoire vraie**. Ma **profonde considération** pour vous m'empêche de vous dire des mensonges.—En tout cas, Dupont est un **homme très gentil**.—Oui. Il dit qu'il est **gentilhomme** de naissance. Quant à moi je pense qu'il a **mauvais air**.

16

Il peut avoir **l'air commun**; mais vous ne pouvez pas dire qu'il a **l'air mauvais**.—Combien de frères a-t-il?—Deux. L'un est un **musicien pauvre**, l'autre un **pauvre écrivain**.—Je me rappelle maintenant que ce dernier est un **poète triste**.—Un **triste poète**, vraiment. Je viens de lire quelques **méchants vers** qu'il avait écrit à Mme. Dubois; ce sont des **vers méchants**, aussi.—Quant au musicien, il a **l'air faux**.—Oui, il a un **faux air** de Mr. Pierre, notre vieux maître qui était un **fier imbécile**.—Mr. Pierre était un **homme bon**.—Un **bonhomme fier et ennuyeux**.—Je ne suis pas de votre avis. Il était la **bonté même**.—Certes, il témoignait la **même bonté** pour les animaux, les **honnêtes gens** et les **francs goujats**.—Vous ne pouvez pas nier qu'il ait été une fois un **professeur fameux**.—Un **fameux professeur** vraiment, qui n'a jamais été capable de se procurer une bonne situation dans ce pays. Il avait **mauvais air** aussi, quoiqu'il prétendit que son père était **gentilhomme**.—Je connaissais son père: un **homme**

gentil, obligeant et généreux.—Je le connais aussi: un **homme galant**, mais pas un **galant homme**, ni un **gentilhomme**!—Bon, je vois que vous êtes un peu méchant aujourd'hui. Qu'y a-t-il?—J'ai fait un **maigre dîner** chez ma tante.—Était-ce un **dîner maigre**?—Naturellement. Et il a duré deux **mortelles heures**, en tête à tête.—Je comprends vos sentiments. Mais comme je ne veux pas que vous médisiez d'avantage aujourd'hui, nous ferions mieux de clore cette conversation.

SUPPLEMENT TO PART II

WRONG EXPRESSIONS

CORRECT EXPRESSIONS

Il **acte** bien
 J'ai beaucoup **affaire**
 J'ai **à faire** avec lui
 Il **est allé** en Europe au printemps,
 et en est revenu en septembre

Une **apologie** pour un harnais
 Ce professeur est très **appris**
 Il est **autant** utile que
 Il est assez bon **de faire** cela
 La poutre s'est balancée **en place**
 sans trouble (the beam swung into
 place without trouble)

Avoir beaucoup de soif
 Il ne fait **pas beaucoup**
 Le **billet** de l'hôtel
 Boire **à la mort**
 Un enfant **bon**
 Venez de **bonheur**
 Il a l'air **brutalisé**
 Avec des sanglots **cassés**
 Casser la loi
 Cela me **confuse**
 Plusieurs **cents** d'années
 C'est **confusant**
 Quelques **mille** de soldats
 Je vais **chez** le **magazin**
 Circonstances **exténuantes**
Combien large est-ce?
Combien longtemps?
Comme aimable vous êtes!
 C'est juste **comme** mon frère

Il **ne fait rien** comment [or quand]
 La **compagnie** qui joue Hamlet
 Je **comprends** que vous êtes arrivé
Côté à côté
 Les **contents** de cette boîte
 Dans la **course** de la semaine
 Suivre une **course** d'anatomie
 Une robe **de blanc**
De qui la faute est-elle?
Décharger un domestique

Il **agit** bien
 J'ai beaucoup **à faire**
 J'ai **affaire** avec lui
 Il **a été** — (action entirely past.
 The past tense of "aller" is used
 when the action is not yet ended:
 "il est allé en Europe et y est
 encore")

Un **soupçon** de harnais
 — **instruit** (or, **savant**)
 — **aussi** utile que
 — **pour faire** —
 — s'est balancée et posée **à sa**
place sans **difficulté**

Avoir très soif
 — **pas grand'chose**
 La **note** —
Se tuer à force de boire
 — **sage**
 — **de bonne heure**
 — **abruti**
 [Voix] **entrecoupée** de sanglots
Violer —

— **me trouble**
 — **centaines** —
 — **troublant**
 — **milliers** —
 — **au magasin** —
 — **atténuantes**
De quelle largeur est-ce?
Combien de temps?
Comme vous êtes aimable!
 Cela **ressemble à** mon frère
 Voilà bien mon frère
N'importe comment [or:quand]
 La **troupe** —
 Il **paraît** que —
Côte à côté
 Le **contenu** —
 — **le cours** —
 — **un cours** —
 Une robe **blanche**
A qui la faute?
Congédier —

Je n'ai **pas déjà** fait cela
Demander des questions
Le demi de la pomme
Désarranger les papiers
Devenir malade
Là devrait être
J'ai été dit que
Il est dit que
 Une dame **étrange** (foreign)
J'irai dehors (abroad) cet été
 Dire **rien**
 La femme **dont** j'ai reçu la lettre
 (from whom)
L'homme dont la modestie le **peuple**
 parle (of whose modesty people
 talk)
En plains habits
Il se promène en haut et en bas
Il finit en accordant cela
 Une leçon facile **d'apprendre**
Il est facile à apprendre la leçon
 Le temps **fait** beau
Il fallut tomber (he nearly fell)

 La faute est **avec** moi
Je suis fini avec cela
 Elle était le seul avocat **femelle**

Domestiques mâles et femelles
 Plusieurs **de fois**
 Une rue **foulée** (crowded)
Garder Vendredi Saint
 Cela **garde** chaud

 Il a la main **gonflée**
 Son cœur est **enflé** de chagrin
Ici je suis
 La banque a **issu** ce billet
Jusqu'à j'arrive
Laisser attendre
 Prendre une leçon **française**
 Un homme **bien** lu
 Je me suis lue **endormie** (I read my-
 self to sleep)
 Deux millions **francs**
 Une femme de **moyen âge**
L'homme moyen (average man)
 Les pages sont **nombrées**
 La **monnaie** n'est pas objet

J'objecte que vous alliez

— pas **encore** —
Poser —
 La **moitié** —
Déranger —
Tomber —
Il devrait y avoir
On m'a dit que
On dit, on rapporte que
 — **étrangère**
 — **à l'étranger** —
Ne rien dire
 — **de qui** — (with "dont," the
 meaning is: the woman whose...)
 — **de la modestie duquel on parle**

En bourgeois (in plain clothes)
 — **de long en large** (up and down)
 — **par accorder** —
 — **à apprendre**
 — **d'apprendre** —
 — **est** —
Il faillit tomber ("faillir," not "fal-
 loir")
 — **à moi**
J'ai —
 — **du sexe féminin** (or: la seule
 femme avocat)
Domestiques des deux sexes
 Plusieurs **fois**
 — **pleine de monde**
Observer —
 — **tient chaud** [coat]
 — **se tient chaud** [dish]
 — **enflée**
 — **gonflé** —
Me voici
 — **émis** —
Jusqu'à ce que —
Faire —
 — **de français**
 — **qui a beaucoup lu**
Je me suis endormie à force de lire

 — **de francs**
 — **d'un certain âge**
Le commun des mortels
 — **numérotées**
**L'argent ne constitue pas une ob-
 jection**
Je trouve mauvais que

Les **os** de poisson
 Outre **étant** pauvre
 Je rentre **parceque le temps**
 Un **parti** joyeux d'étudiants
 Il est parti **en** ville
 Les yeux lui **partent** de la tête
 J'ai perdu vue **de** lui
 Je l'ai présenté **avec** ce livre
 Cela **a** prouvé inutile
 Prendre la **part** d'Othello
 Il va **nulle** place
 Donnez vingt francs **plus**
 Plus **que** dix francs
 Premier, je ferai cela
 Il **prend** avantage **de** mon ignorance
 Qu'appellez vous cette chose ?
 Quel cherchez vous ?
 Quelque chose [quelqu'un] **beau**
 Quoi voyez vous ?
 C'est la raison **pourquoi**
 Les prix **rangent** de 5 à 10 francs
 Je me rappelle **de** lui
 Je lui ai **remarqué** qu'il allait trop vite

Les écoliers ont 15 minutes de **repos**
 Il me **réprouve** parceque
 Je reproche **mon** frère **pour** dire
 Il est un **reproche** **pour** cette école
De reste, je n'ai pas le temps
 Je le connais **du** reste
Rien mauvais
 Le **salaire** du médecin
 Les **gages** de l'ouvrier
 Le **traitement** du domestique

Il reçoit pour ces fonctions une **compensation**
 Elle a dit à **s'amie** (or, **sa amie**)
 Louise: reconnaissons le mérite
 de nos **meilleurs**

Cela lui **sauve** le trouble de monter
 Je me sens comme le **frappant**

Le **signe** lit "Maison pour louer"

Le **signe** de ce magasin
 Il n'y a que moi qui **soit** capable de
 Ne soyons nous pas **préjudiciés** **en-**
vers lui
 C'est **surprisant**

Les **arêtes** —
 Outre qu'il était pauvre
 — à cause du temps
 Une **bande** joyeuse —
 — pour la ville
 — sortent —
 Je l'ai perdu **de** vue
 Je lui ai présenté **ce** —
 — s'est trouvé —
 Prendre [jouer] le **rôle** —
 Il ne va **nulle** part
 — de plus
 Plus **de** —
 D'abord, —
 Il **profite** de —
 Comment —
 Que (or qui) —
 — de beau
 Que — ("Quoi" is never object)
 — pour la **quelle**
 — vont de —
 Je me le rappelle
 — ai fait remarquer —

— de **récréation**
 Il me **fait** des reproches —
 — à mon frère **de** dire
 — la **honte** de —
 Du reste, (besides) —
 — de reste (enough and to spare)
 — de mauvais
 Les **honoraires** —
 Le **salaire** —
 Les **gages** — ("traitement" is
 said of officials)
 — un **traitement** (or: des ap-
 pointements) (see p. 117, No. 24)
 — à son amie Louise: reconnais-
 sons le mérite de **ceux** qui nous
 sont **supérieurs** (or: qui valent
 mieux que nous)
 — épargne la **peine** de —
 J'éprouve une grande envie de le
frapper
 On lit sur cet écriteau "Maison à
 louer"
 L'**enseigne** —
 — qui **sois** —
 Ne soyons pas **prévenus** contre —
 — **surprenant**

Nous sommes supposés de faire	— censés faire
Nous prendons le char	Nous prenons le tramway
Une telle bonne femme	Une si bonne —
Je toujours dis	Je dis toujours
A travers le corps	Au travers du corps
Au travers du parc	A travers le parc
Il trouva son pareil (match)	Il trouva à qui parler
L'autre un a dit	L'autre a dit
C'est l'un que je veux	C'est celui que —
Il est nécessaire pour un de	Il est nécessaire qu'on
Ils ont dit à l'un l'autre	Ils se sont dit l'un à l'autre
Tombés sur l'un l'autre	— l'un sur l'autre
Je veux que je serais	Je voudrais être
Il viendra à moi pour un livre le	Il viendra me demander un livre
jour après demain	après demain

SOME "DON'TS"

- DO NOT think an **homme spirituel** is a spiritualist ; he is not necessarily an intellectual, but a **witty** man.
- DO NOT say that a man **a montré beaucoup d'esprit**, if you mean that he showed **much spirit**. "Esprit" is "wit" : say, **Entrain**.
- DO NOT call an **homme clairvoyant** "a mind reader." He is only "a far-seeing man."
- DO NOT forget that **un homme sobre** is not a man serious or subdued. He is only a man who **drinks sparingly** or not at all.
- DO NOT fail to get rid of the habit of saying, "Prenez moi à la station," when you mean, "Take me," etc. Say, **Menez** (or **Conduisez**) **moi**, etc.
- DO NOT translate "an exalted ruler" into "un potentat exalté," which would mean "an over-excited ruler." Use **Puissant**, or **Très haut**.
- DO NOT use **caution** in French, as a word of warning. It means "bond," "bail," or "guarantee." The proper word is **Avis** or **Notice** ; as an interjection, **Attention**.
- DO NOT use, without distinction, **sans soin**, **sans souci**, and **sans gêne**. The first is "careless ;" the second, "care free ;" and the last, "free and easy."
- DO NOT believe that **donner le change** is "to give out small change." It is **to put some one on the wrong scent**. "Small change" is : **petite monnaie**.
- DO NOT use **jouer** (to play) for **jouir** (to enjoy.)

SUPPLEMENT TO PART XII

Bastringue. f.	A very poor kind of music
Bataclan. m.	The whole thing, "the complete outfit"
Cambuse. f.	A miserable house (or room)
Canassont, m.	(milit) A horse
Carottier	(milit) A schemer
Crin-crin. m.	A cracked fiddle
Croque-mort	An undertaker's assistant
Fumiste	A deceitful man
Mastroquet	A saloon keeper
Mégott†	A cigar stump
Une bonne pâte	A simpleton
Pétaudière. f.	A regular bedlam
Plancher des vaches. m.	The land (as a contrast to the sea)
La Poubelle†	The regulation garbage can used in Paris (after the name of a former Préfet de la Seine)
Ribambelle. f	A very large number
Sergott. f.	A "cop"
Zinct. m.	The counter of a bar
[Adj.] Abracadabrant†	"Killing," "stunning"
Bassinant	Boring
Bête comme un clou (nail)	Very stupid
Ebaubi	Much surprised
Timbré	Cranky, crazy
Retoqué	Refused (at an examination)
Vanné	Played out, "dead tired"
[Verbs] Avoir la flemme	To feel lazy
Avoir le trac	To have the stage fright
Avoir trop bu d'un coup	To have had one drink too many
Arroser (une situation, etc.)	To pay the drinks to celebrate one's appointment, etc.
Ballader (se)†	To go out for a good time
S'en battre l'œil†	"Not to care a rap" about it
Boire un bouillon	To lose money (speculation)
Caponner	To show the white feather
Graisser la patte à	To bribe somebody
En avoir dans l'aile	To "see one's finish"
En faire des siennes	To play pranks
En faire voir de belles à	To play some mean tricks on
Etre dans le train	To be well informed
Etre ratissé†	To be "cleaned out"
Faire les 419 coups	To indulge in wild dissipation
Faire la mauraude	(For a cabman) To hunt for customers with one's cab
Faire mousser (se)	To boast, to "bluff" about oneself

Lever le pied	To "make tracks" with other people's money
Ne pas en mener large	To "feel shaky" (after a setting down)
Ne pas se moucher du pied	Not to be a fool (or to have ambition)
Mettre (se) en quatre	To do one's best
Moquer (s'en) comme de l'an 40	Not to care a rap about it
Piloter quelqu'un	To show some one around
Payer la goutte à†	To pay a drink to somebody
Tirer les vers de nez à	To "pump out" somebody
Tirez la carotte	To scheme (milit)
Voir 36 chandelles	To "see stars" (after a blow on the head)
Ne pas se voir fixe†	To feel oneself "in a mess"
[Expressions] De quoi?†	What is that? (with contempt)
Enfoncé !	Done for !
Cela n'est pas la mer à boire	It is not so very difficult
Cela sent le sapin	It reminds one of a coffin (made usually of pine wood)
Il n'a pas inventé les pains à cacheter (sealing wafers)	He is not a very clever man
Va comme je te pousse	[Proverb] Let things go (or be)
J'ai d'autres chats à fouetter	I have other fish to fry

Expressions with the word "Diable" which are not improper in French

Diab!e !	Goodness !
A la diable	Carelessly
Avoir le diable au corps	To be very gay
Cela ne vaut pas le diable	It is worthless
C'est le diable !	It is just the trouble
Faire le diable à quatre	To play pranks
Tirer le diable par la queue	To make merely a living

Energetic exclamations which are not swearing

Mâtin !	Sac à papier !
Diantre !	Sapristi ! Saprelotte !
Nom d'une pipe !	Nom de nom !

SUPPLEMENT TO THE FOURTH EDITION.

I. Expressions not generally found in dictionaries

- I do not want to detain you: **Je ne veux pas vous retenir.**
I may as well say (go, do. . .): **Autant dire (aller, faire. . .).**
If I do not hear from you: **Si vous ne me faites rien dire.**
It is not fair (at a game): **Ce n'est pas de jeu.**
If I simply write to him: **Si je me borne à lui écrire.**
The loss must be mine: **C'est moi qui dois supporter la perte.**
To look forward with pleasure to: **Se faire une fête de.**
To talk back (child, pupil or servant): **répondre.**
(others): **répondre de travers.**
There is no privacy: **Il n'y a rien d'intime, il n'y a pas d'intimité.**
Keep the change: **Gardez la monnaie.**
I had the time of my life: **Je m'en suis donné à cœur joie.**
That does not appeal to me: **Cela ne me dit rien.**
I do not associate with them: **Je ne les fréquente pas.**

II. Sundry pitfalls

1. Do not use "le dernier" for **the latter**, but **ce dernier**.
2. Do not say: **faire table rase** for **faire table nette**. The first means: **to make a clean sweep**; the second: **to leave only empty dishes** (at a meal).
3. Never use **faillir** (to nearly. . .) at the present tense. Use the past. **J'ai failli tomber** (I nearly fell): you can realize the fact only **after** recovering your balance.
4. Do not look too far when translating **He (I, we, etc.) must have been**; and follow the English construction, thus: **Il doit avoir été**.
5. To translate **There must be, there must have been**, bear in mind that **there is** is **il y a**. Say: **Il doit y avoir, il doit y avoir eu**.
6. Prepositions to use after "temps."
J'ai (je n'ai pas) LE temps DE diner.
J'ai DU temps POUR diner—(in order to).
Je n'ai pas DE temps À perdre—passive idea: to be lost.
Je n'ai pas DE temps POUR diner—(in order to).

7. Notice the expressions:

J'ai beaucoup à faire: I have much to do.

Il a affaire à moi: He has some business to transact with me.

C'est à faire à lui (de réciter en public): He excels in

8. **Réconcilier** is never used with the meaning of "making consistent or congruous." Use **concilier** (concilier le travail manuel avec les occupations littéraires.)
9. **Retracer** is not "to turn back." Therefore, to **retrace** one's steps is **rebrousser chemin**.
10. Do not translate **play** (at the theatre) into "jeu." It is **pièce** (f.). But the **acting** (of an actor) is **le jeu**.
11. **Soupçon** (m.) et **ombre** (f.) mean equally a wee bit of, the slightest touch of, but the latter is more used figuratively. **Une ombre d'hésitation; un soupçon de fièvre**.
12. Remember that "privat" is German, not French. Say: **privé**.
13. "Importeur," "exporteur," are not French. Say: **Importateur, exportateur**. And **arbitrage** is the translation of **arbitration**. It is not always safe to proceed deductively in that matter. **Alternativement** is the translation of **alternately**.
14. Remember also that a number of verbs which take a preposition in English have a **direct object** in French. (**Attendre: to wait FOR; écouter—to listen TO; regarder—to look AT**.)
15. **Populace** is always derogatory in French.
16. Do not place **premier, dernier** before the cardinal number, but **AFTER**. **Les vingt premiers: the first twenty**.
17. **Entretenir** (un ami) is not "to entertain" (a friend), but **to maintain** or **to support**. Therefore translate **to entertain someone** into **recevoir** or **amuser quelqu'un**: **They entertain much: ils reçoivent beaucoup**.
18. Do not drop "i" before "e," Say **si elle** (not "s'elle.")
19. Notice the difference between:
Let him come (permission): **laissez le venir**.
Let him come (order or indifference): **qu'il vienne**.
20. "ON" cannot be object. **That makes one shiver** must be therefore translated into: **Cela VOUS fait frémir**.
21. **Grief**, in French, means **grievance**. So, translate it, as a rule, into **chagrin** (m.)—**He came to grief: il a eu des malheurs**.
22. **Sot**, in French, never means a **drunkard**. It is used oftener, in that language, than the word **sot** in English with the meaning of foolish.
23. Notice that **rot**, the English substantive, is **pourriture** (f.), in French. There are, however, two words **rot** (m.) in French; one, with the

circumflex accent, means **roast**; the other, without accent, means, familiarly, **belch**. (The latter **should** be translated into **renvoi** (m.).)

24. **Traitement** (m.) is the pay of high officials, members of the Legion of Honor, etc. **Indemnité** (f.) is used for members of the Parliament. (See page 107.)
25. Remember that **prune** (f.), in French, is **plum**. The English word **prune** is rendered by **pruneau** (m.). Likewise, **raisin** (m.) is **grape** in English. Translate the English **raisin** into **raisin sec**. The French word **grappe** (f.) is **bunch**, or **cluster**.
26. Although the sense given to the word **martinet** is consistent with its etymology (the name of an officer, in the French army under Louis XIV, a very strict disciplinarian), it is not used with that meaning in French, for it is a kind of whip, named, probably, after the officer who used it.
27. **Aussitôt** (que) is **as soon** (as). Without the "que," it means **immediately**. But **aussi tôt** is **so soon**.
28. Before a few feminine nouns, **grande** loses the final "e" and takes the apostrophe instead (**grand'mère**, **grand'messe**, **grand'garde**, **grand'route**, etc.). The reason is that this adjective comes from the Latin "grandis," which did not vary before a feminine noun. This rule passed into the primitive French language and is still observed in some cases. As late as the XVIII Century, the "e" was elided, sometimes, **after** the noun. (For inst.: **mère grand**).
29. **La plupart** must be followed by a noun or verb in the plural. Do not say: "la plupart de la bouteille" for **the greatest part of the bottle**; say: **la plus grande partie de**, etc. **La plupart des bouteilles** = **most bottles**.

III. Some peculiar difficulties in the Syntax

1. Notice that the pronouns of the 3d person (**lui**, **leur**, **elle**, etc.), indirect objects, **are not** placed before the verb in such constructions as:

Vous me présentez À LUI (à elle, à eux. . .)—you introduce me to him (to her, etc.)

But the other pronouns follow the general rule:

Vous ME les présentez: you introduce them to me.

2. Many advanced scholars never seem to master the use of **DE**. Bear in mind that **DE** is more indefinite than **du**, **de la**, **des**. You must say:

Le chapeau DE LA femme de M. Pierre.

but: **Un chapeau DE femme** (a woman's hat.)

- L'amour DE LA gloire**—here "glory" is personified.
 but: **Le désir DE gloire**—(a craving for glory.)
J'ai besoin DU papier qui est sur la table—a certain paper.
 but: **J'ai besoin DE papier**—any paper.

3. NEVER OMIT "DE" in such expressions as: **Deux hommes DE tués** (two men killed); **plusieurs maisons DE brûlées** (several houses burned).

The rule is: When a noun taken partitively is preceded by a word expressing **quantity** and followed by a **limiting** word, **DE** is placed before the latter.

4. NEVER OMIT "DE" after **quelqu'un, quelque chose, rien, personne**, when an adjective follows. **Quelqu'un DE méchant, rien DE bon**. A common mistake among foreigners.
5. Many students get into trouble when they have to translate **him, them**, in connection with **faire** followed by an infinitive. As a rule, in **faire lire, faire partir, faire renoncer à**, etc., consider "faire" as a sort of supplementary auxiliary of the verb which follows. If **him, them**, are direct objects, say **le, les**; if not: **lui, leur**.

I caused them to abandon their plans: **je LES ai fait renoncer à leurs plans**.

I made him read the story: **je LUI ai fait lire l'histoire**. (The latter is direct object.)

For the same reason, say: **Je le lui ai fait faire** (I made him do it), because **lui** is indirect object and always comes after **le**.

REMARK.—There is some uncertainty in the use of these pronouns with **écouter, voir, laisser, entendre**, followed by an infinitive. Some writers refuse to consider such verbs as auxiliaries. They would translate **I saw him break his cane** into **je LUI ai vu casser sa canne**, because, for them, **casser** is the direct object of **vu** and, therefore, the pronoun must be indirect object. It is safer, however, for a foreigner, to follow the custom and to say: **Je l'ai vu casser sa canne**. But it is customary to use **lui, leur**, if the infinitive is followed by **QUE** and a subordinate sentence:

Je LUI ai entendu dire qu'il viendrait: I heard him say that he would come.—For the same reason say: **J'ai entendu dire À son père qu'il viendrait**=I heard his father say that he would come.

6. Although reflective verbs must be used with the article, instead of ordinary verbs and possessive pronouns, when speaking of parts of the body ("**JE ME SUIS coupé LE doigt**"—**I cut my finger**), there is an exception. When no physical change (pain, etc.), is caused to the body, use an ordinary verb (but no possessive.)

J'ai tourné la tête (I turned my head): **J'ai étendu le doigt** (I stretched out my finger): **J'ai frappé du pied** (I stamped my foot). In the first instance, "**je me suis tourné la tête**" would mean: **I twisted my head**.

Notice that, in these instances, the reflective verb, if used without an object, would not convey the slightest idea of the action, while in such sentences as **Je me suis blessé la tête**, the words "Je me suis blessé," by themselves, give a general idea of the facts (I hurt myself).

IV. Expressions rendered very differently in French and in English.

Filer à l'anglaise: to take French leave.

Serviette blanche: clean napkin ("serviette propre" is also correct).

Rire sous cape: to laugh in one's sleeve.

Rire jaune: to laugh the wrong side of one's mouth.

Les bons comptes font les bons amis: short reckonings make long friends.

Sous la calotte des cieux: "under the sun."

Mourir de peur: to be frightened to death.

Donner un coup de main: to lend a helping hand.

La maison fait le coin: the house stands at the corner.

Je ne sa's sur quel pied danser: I do not know which way to turn.

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